

# TRENDS



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Economic Recovery Was In the Air

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The Beginning of the End of a  
Three-year Slide

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Rest of the State in '88

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Economy's January  
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Benchmark Revision

**Economy Rebounds From Recession**

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**March 1989  
Volume 9  
Issue 3**



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# Economy Rebounds From Recession

by John Boucher

**A**laska's economy posted its first employment gain in two years during 1988. Nonagricultural wage and salary employment grew 1.1 percent statewide. (See Table 1.) This growth was a turnaround from the prior two years, both of which posted employment losses amounting to over four percent. (See Figure 1.)

Beginning in the last quarter of 1987 and the first quarter of 1988, total employment levels flirted with overall growth. However, industry estimates during this period were mixed, indicating that the recovery might not be sustained. But by mid-year, employment levels were firmly entrenched in a growth mode. Negative forces — the construction and financial sectors — had abated. And positive forces — highlighted by the resurging manufacturing industry, increased oil and gas exploration, and the recovery of the trade and services sectors — gathered enough momentum to push total employment into a growth mode.

## The Worst is Over

Looking back, the summer of 1988 will be remembered for marking the end to one of Alaska's worst recessions. Between 1985 and 1987, nearly 1 in every 10 jobs disappeared from the Alaska economy. (These numbers don't reflect the total job loss during those months because it excludes losses among the self-employed.) Social and economic grief endured by Alaskans during these recessionary months included wage cuts, personal bankruptcies, business failures, and bank closures.

Although the stoppage of employment losses doesn't mean that all Alaska economic woes are remedied, it does indicate that the worst is over. More important, positive signs — like employment and income growth, and a lower unemployment rate — build a foundation upon which a stronger Alaska economy can be created.

There were  
More Jobs in 1988.

Table 1

## Alaska Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment By Place of Work 1987-1988

|                             | 1987<br>Annual<br>Average | 1988<br>Annual<br>Average | Percent<br>Change |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------|
| Nonag. Wage & Salary        | 210,100                   | 212,300                   | 1.0               |
| Mining                      | 8,800                     | 9,500                     | 8.0               |
| Construction                | 10,100                    | 8,700                     | -13.9             |
| Manufacturing               | 12,900                    | 14,800                    | 14.7              |
| Seafood Processing          | 6,700                     | 7,800                     | 16.4              |
| Lumber & Paper Products     | 3,100                     | 3,600                     | 16.1              |
| All Other Manufacturing     | 3,200                     | 3,400                     | 6.3               |
| Transportation              | 17,600                    | 17,200                    | -2.3              |
| Trucking & Warehousing      | 2,400                     | 2,200                     | -8.3              |
| Water Transportation        | 1,000                     | 1,000                     | 0.0               |
| Air Transportation          | 5,300                     | 5,400                     | 1.9               |
| Communications              | 3,600                     | 3,300                     | -8.3              |
| All Other Transportation    | 5,200                     | 5,300                     | 1.9               |
| Trade                       | 41,100                    | 42,000                    | 2.2               |
| Wholesale                   | 7,400                     | 7,500                     | 1.4               |
| Retail                      | 33,700                    | 34,500                    | 2.4               |
| Gen. Merch. & Apparel       | 4,900                     | 5,000                     | 2.0               |
| Food Stores                 | 5,900                     | 6,000                     | 1.7               |
| Eating & Drinking Places    | 12,400                    | 12,700                    | 2.4               |
| All Other Retail            | 10,600                    | 10,700                    | 0.9               |
| Finance, Ins. & Real Estate | 11,300                    | 10,700                    | -5.3              |
| Services                    | 42,500                    | 42,900                    | 0.9               |
| Hotels & Other Lodging      | 4,600                     | 4,600                     | 0.0               |
| Government                  | 65,800                    | 66,600                    | 1.2               |
| Federal                     | 17,900                    | 18,000                    | 0.6               |
| State                       | 18,700                    | 19,400                    | 3.7               |
| Local                       | 29,200                    | 29,300                    | 0.3               |

Annual averages may not add due to rounding.

Source: Alaska Department of Labor, Research & Analysis

Alaska's economy grew 1.1 percent from 1987 to 1988.

Perhaps it is Alaskans' expectations which constitute the most important change in an economic turn around. Most people — even those who have little to fear — behave differently when unemployment is high and jobs are being lost. Behavioral changes alone can retard the chances of recovery. The recent turnaround of employment numbers partly indicates that expectations have improved for the immediate future. Business owners are again hiring additional workers, a move they usually don't make if they believe trouble is just around the corner.

### Some Areas Sizzle But Anchorage Fizzles

Overall, Alaska's economy grew 1.1 percent from 1987 to 1988. But it wasn't across-the-board growth. Alaska's largest city faltered most of the year, and Fairbanks' growth remained marginal. It was the coastal and northern regions that set the recovery in motion.

(Following is a brief synopsis summarizing the state of each of the region's economies during the year 1988. More detailed analyses of each of the regional economies appear elsewhere in this issue.)

Anchorage, home of the state's construction and financial sectors, had two strikes against it during 1988. The construction industry plummeted once again last year, and Anchorage felt the drop more acutely than other regions. Further, when financial institutions closed or merged, the Anchorage economy endured most of the job losses. In addition to losses attributed to these two industries, the Municipality of Anchorage's budget problems caused further job losses, an unusual occurrence in the typically stable government sector. Altogether, losses in these three sectors proved too much for the Anchorage economy. Despite positive contributions from a growing oil and gas sector and job growth in the trade and services sector, the aforementioned negative forces were too much for Anchorage to overcome during 1988.

### Fairbanks Held Steady in 1988

In Alaska's Interior, Fairbanks employment numbers were held steady, the result of an increased uniformed military presence and a return to job growth at the University of Alaska facility there. The military growth boosted an otherwise dormant construction industry and bolstered Fairbanks' retail sector. Also helping some with the Interior's 1988 job picture was a resurgence in hard rock mining. The mining industry comprises, though, a very small portion of Fairbanks' overall wage and salary employment picture.

### Southeast Job Picture Healthy

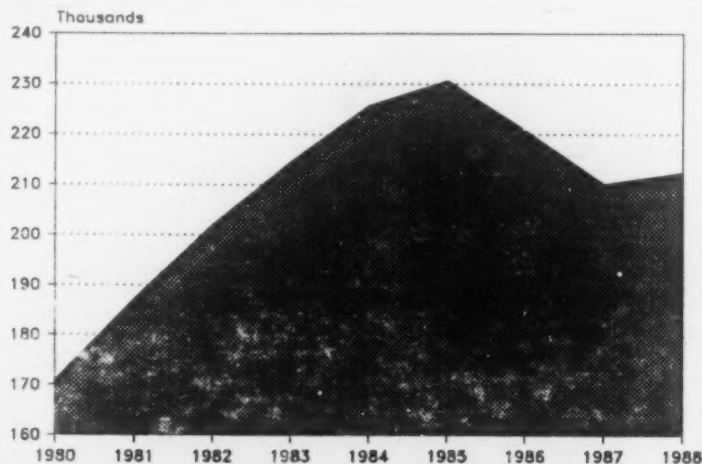
In Southeast Alaska, the lumber and paper products sector helped propel the region to healthy employment gains. In terms of total employment, lumber and paper products experienced its best year of the past decade. Further, the Southeast Region gained last year with the doubling of mining employment (attributed primarily to the start up of the Green's

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Figure 1

### Alaska's Nonagricultural Employment 1980 - 1988



Source: Alaska Department of Labor, Research & Analysis

Creek mine), and with a rebound in state government employment.

### **Fisheries and Government Helped the Gulf, Southcentral and Southwest Regions**

The Gulf Coast and Southwest regions, like the Southeast, benefitted from increased manufacturing employment. The seafood processing industry — with a boom in bottomfish harvests and record value catches in much of Southcentral Alaska — provided the greatest growth in these two regions. Additionally, the opening of the Spring Creek Correctional Center in Seward substantially boosted Gulf Coast government employment numbers.

### **Mining is Driving the North**

Driving Northern Alaska's employment growth is a mining industry boom: gold mining in the Nome area, development of zinc mining at the Red Dog Mine near Kotzebue, and increasing oil exploration in the far north.

### **Manufacturing, Mining and Government Set the Pace**

As indicated earlier, the manufacturing industry, fueled by employment growth in the seafood processing and wood products sectors, was the leading growth industry in the state during 1988. Seafood processing employment hit an all-time high in July despite a smaller volume of salmon caught in Bristol Bay. Responsible for the higher seafood processing employment numbers is growth in the bottomfish industry. As a result of this 1988 growth, winter employment in the seafood processing sector has nearly doubled in the last few years.

### **Large Job Jumps in Logging**

While all of the state's manufacturing sectors performed well last year, logging employment in particular enjoyed large job jumps. The Southeast Region's 26%

employment growth in this sector could have easily been larger were it not for acute shortages of experienced loggers, according to information provided by Southeast Job Service offices and the Alaska Loggers Association. Many logging camps were operating at full throttle right up until the holiday season; in prior years the industry geared down beginning in October. It wasn't the Southeast which was the sole beneficiary of last year's logging boom; the Gulf Coast Region also enjoyed significant gains in logging employment near the end of the year.

The growth in lumber and seafood products was augmented by a six percent increase in the remaining portions of the manufacturing sector, these portions primarily being newspaper publishing and printing.

### **Greens Creek: Harbinger of Things to Come in Mining?**

Mining was the second fastest growing industry in 1988. Causes of the growth are linked to a resurgence of oil exploration and development activity and a hard rock mining boom. One of the largest contributors was the Green's Creek mine near Juneau as it geared up for production. Most of the other hard rock mining employment growth was related to exploration and development. The Green's Creek project could very well be a harbinger of things to come in Alaska's mining industry.

### **State Government's Employ Gained by 3.7%**

In addition to the mining and manufacturing sectors, also posting employment gains was the state's largest employer, the State of Alaska. State government posted 3.7% employment growth after two consecutive years of decline. Almost one-half of the growth — amounting to 700 new jobs — is attributed to new positions filled at the Spring Creek Correctional Center in Seward. Most of the rest of the growth can be ascribed to the relative stabilization of the state's

revenue picture between State Fiscal Year (SFY) 1988 and the start of calendar year 1989. (SFY '88 began July 1, 1987.)

While mining, manufacturing and government set the economic pace, the support sectors also began showing signs of life last year. There was a broad based recovery in the trade sector. And the legal, social and health sectors all contributed to the overall growth of the service industry. Business for the hotel and motel industry, a category newly added to the published data, was flat over the year. This flat performance is partly due to slowed traffic in the tourism industry during 1988.

### **Construction, Finance and Transportation Industries Posted Losses**

The construction industry's troubles have been well documented. Among the many causes for the industry's distress are overbuilding, shrunken state construction budgets, smaller municipal budgets, less oil-related construction activity, and a drop in commercial building activity. The sole good news for the construction industry was that the employment loss amounted to only 14% between 1987 and 1988; that can be considered good news when compared to the employment losses of the two prior years, 28% and 24%. The 1988 annual employment average of 8,700 was the lowest level of construction employment since 1973. Even more indicative of how far the industry has fallen is the industry's share of nonagricultural employment. The industry's 4.1% share of total 1988 employment is the lowest it has ever been since before statehood days; typically, the industry's share of total employment since the 1960s has been between 6% and 8%.

### **1988 Was a Banker's Nightmare**

Failures in the construction industry, combined with the state's general

economic downturn made for an Alaska banker's nightmare in 1988. Evidence of the nightmare are the financial industry's employment declines — which are partly attributable to the closure of five banks. From 1987 to 1988 the number of banks in Alaska dropped from 16 to 11. (Those interested in an in-depth look at Alaska's financial sector might seek out "Turbulent Times in Alaska's Financial Industry", an article published in the November 1988 issue of *Trends*.)

### 1988 Brought Contraction in the Air Transportation Industry

In the transportation industry, the state's air transportation sector suffered some employment losses among certificated air carriers. One major commuter airline serving rural Alaska was shut down due to alleged safety violations. (The company reopened later in the year with a much smaller work force.) Others were forced to close due to financial problems. Also

experiencing some contraction during the year was the trucking industry.

### Summary: Overall, Alaska's Economy is Rebounding

Last year, Alaska's economy posted its first employment gain since 1985, marking the end to one of the worst recessions in Alaska's history. Employment growth in manufacturing, mining and government were largely responsible for the turnaround. Losses continued in Alaska's construction and finance industries, but their effect was diminished by gains made by the growth industries. Signs of the economic turnaround were unmistakable beginning in late 1987, but the recovery was not fully entrenched until mid-year 1988.

Growth did not occur in every area of the state. In fact, Alaska's two largest

cities both posted employment losses for the year. The Southeast, Southwest, Gulf Coast and Northern regions of Alaska all combined to offset the employment losses in Anchorage and Fairbanks. By the end of the year, though, the two cities were manifesting signs of future growth.

Unemployment in Alaska during 1988 was at its lowest ebb since the height of the recent boom in 1985, posting a 9.5 percent unemployment rate for the year. By year's end, dramatic changes in Alaska's economic landscape had clearly developed. Jobs were available in most areas. In some industries jobs were even going begging. Employers were hiring again. The general economic outlook had brightened considerably, compared to the pall of the past few years. All of this pointed to a brighter immediate future for the economy of the state.

# Anchorage 1988: Economic Recovery Was In the Air

By Neal Fried

**A**t long last, the first clear signs of an Anchorage economic recovery began to show in 1988.

The year held mixed economic signals. The big question was: Had the economy hit bottom yet? That this question even arose was in itself a good omen. There has been little doubt that the economy had been in a death spiral over the prior two years.

### Five Hundred Fifty Fewer Jobs in '88

Anchorage's 1988 economy ended with 550 fewer jobs than had existed in the year 1987. (See Figure 1.) Nevertheless, employment numbers depicted in Figure 2 show that the city's economy crept out of a three-year recession during

The Anchorage economy had been in a death spiral in 1986 and 1987.

the final four months of 1988. Although not all sectors saw gains in 1988, by the end of the year the economy as a whole was posting gains. In fact, some of the recovering industries were looking downright robust by December. At the same time, a handful of industries remained a long way from recovery.

### The Oil Industry Posted Largest Gains

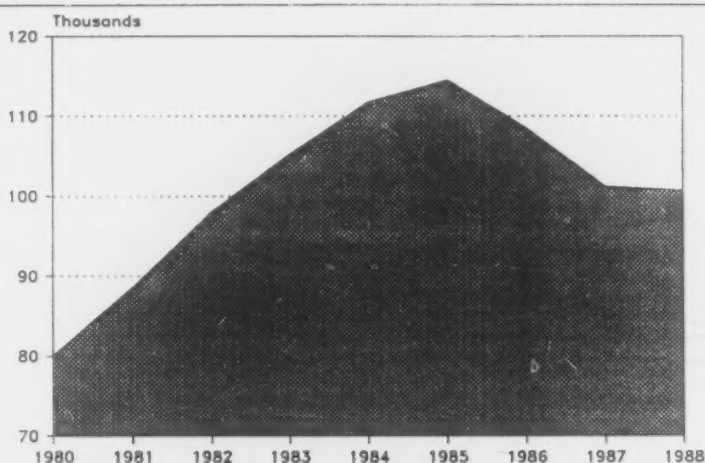
Oil industry employment posted the largest gains, almost 8% above 1987. (See Table 1.) The number of active drilling rigs grew from nine in 1987 to twelve in 1988. Increased activity in oil exploration and development pushed forward industry employment. This rise in activity occurred despite oil prices having declined by 20% in 1988. The reason this happened is because a surplus of drilling equipment pushed down drilling costs by about 30%. In addition, Prudhoe Bay's major oil producers made up for low crude oil prices by making greater profits in petrochemicals and other refined products.

### Auto Sales Surged

Like the oil industry, much of Anchorage's trade and services sectors improved markedly during the latter half of 1988. Part of this recovery probably came from renewed confidence in the economy. This is particularly true in retail trade. During the turbulent years of 1986 and 1987 many consumers postponed purchases because they perceived their economic future to be an uncertain one. But after surviving the recession's two worst years, consumers felt more secure. Some of this pent-up demand found its way into the 1988 marketplace. For example, after two dismal years, all of Anchorage's auto dealers reported a surge in 1988 sales. Also, 1988 employment in the restaurant industry rose by 550 as consumers once again felt they could afford to eat out.

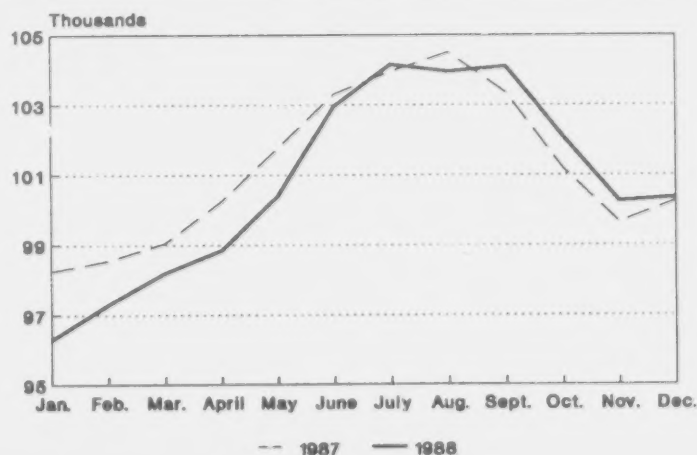
After two years of decline, Anchorage's 1988 service sector employment also began to turn the corner. Posting over-

## Anchorage Nonagricultural Employment 1980 - 1988



Source: Alaska Department of Labor, Research & Analysis

## Anchorage Employment 1987 - 1988



Source: Alaska Department of Labor, Research & Analysis

the-year gains were medical, auto repair, and legal and private social services. But business services were still being pummelled. Perhaps this pummelling continued because the city's financial industry, a big consumer of business services, was still up against the ropes. Because the gains in some segments of the service sector were greater than the declines in other parts, the sector as a whole completed the year on a positive note.

Table 1

### Anchorage Borough Wage and Salary Employment 1987-1988

|                             | 1987    | 1988    | Percent<br>Change<br>1987-1988 |
|-----------------------------|---------|---------|--------------------------------|
| Nonag. Wage & Salary        | 101,150 | 100,600 | -0.5                           |
| Mining                      | 3,150   | 3,400   | 7.9                            |
| Construction                | 5,350   | 4,200   | 21.5                           |
| Manufacturing               | 2,350   | 2,550   | 8.5                            |
| Transportation              | 9,400   | 9,200   | -2.1                           |
| Trucking & Warehousing      | 1,600   | 1,400   | -12.5                          |
| Water Transportation        | 300     | 300     | 0.0                            |
| Air Transportation          | 3,200   | 3,350   | 4.7                            |
| Communications              | 1,900   | 1,800   | -5.3                           |
| All Other Transportation    | 2,450   | 2,350   | 4.1                            |
| Trade                       | 23,400  | 24,100  | 3.0                            |
| Wholesale                   | 5,550   | 5,600   | 0.9                            |
| Retail                      | 17,850  | 18,500  | -3.6                           |
| Gen. Merch. & Apparel       | 2,450   | 2,500   | 2.0                            |
| Food Stores                 | 2,850   | 2,800   | -1.8                           |
| Eating & Drinking Places    | 6,950   | 7,500   | 7.9                            |
| All Other Retail            | 5,600   | 5,650   | 0.9                            |
| Finance, Ins. & Real Estate | 7,600   | 7,200   | -5.3                           |
| Services                    | 24,100  | 24,400  | 1.2                            |
| Government                  | 25,900  | 25,650  | -1.0                           |
| Federal                     | 10,350  | 10,300  | -0.5                           |
| State                       | 6,700   | 6,850   | 2.2                            |
| Local                       | 8,850   | 8,450   | -4.5                           |

Annual averages may not add due to rounding.

Source: Alaska Department of Labor, Research & Analysis

news about Anchorage local government. Plunging real estate values forced the city to cut its budget by 3%. The city lost over 250 jobs in 1988; although most were lost through attrition, some layoffs did occur. School district employment was also down for the year because of reduced staffing levels that went into effect during the first half of 1988. The school district's staffing levels recovered, though, by the fall of 1988; the levels came in slightly higher than the corresponding months in 1987.

#### More Bad News for the Construction, Real Estate and Banking Industries

The construction industry's grim saga of attrition continued in 1988, declining another 20% from 1987 levels. Employment in this industry has fallen to levels not seen since 1973 when the economy was half its present size. (See Figure 3.) According to a recent McGraw Hill's F.W. Construction Bulletin, the value of total construction awards in Anchorage fell by another 39% — to \$138 million. In 1988 the construction industry's share of the city's work force was only 4%. By way of comparison, its peak in 1983 totaled 9%. The glut of residential and commercial properties, coupled with the evaporation of public construction dollars, has prevented any semblance of recovery in the industry.

Like the construction industry, misfortunes were far from over in 1988 for Anchorage's finance, insurance and real estate industries. In 1988, two more banks either shut their doors or reorganized, bringing the total casualty list of banks to nine. Most of the surviving banks sustained additional revenue losses. The industry's tribulations hit Anchorage hard because the city serves as the state's financial headquarters.

#### Report Card on Public Sector is Mixed

The public sector presented a mixed picture in 1988. State government employment recovered in 1988 and actually posted a 2.2% gain. Job gains came both to the University of Alaska-Anchorage and to the rest of state government. But federal government employment dropped slightly in 1988. The military's civilian employment numbers fell by 150, while the federal government's nonmilitary employment grew by 100.

Layoffs of city workers, closure of fire stations and libraries, and sale of city-owned utilities dominated the 1988

Layoffs of city workers, closure of fire stations and libraries, and sale of city-owned utilities dominated the 1988 news about Anchorage

The real estate industry fared no better than the banks during the year. Real estate prices continued to plunge. Anchorage 1988 foreclosures grew to a record 3,640 properties. Of all Alaska property to be foreclosed upon in 1988, 57% was in Anchorage.

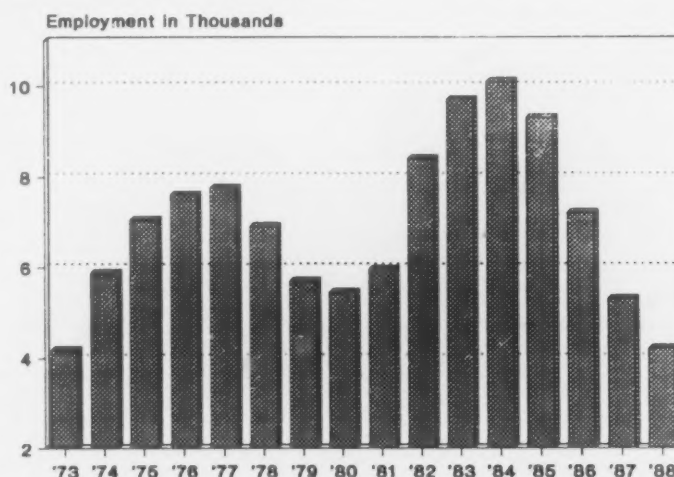
Yet, there is a slightly more positive note: real estate prices appear to have fallen enough to allow investors and first-time home buyers to jump into the market. This could mean that prices for certain segments of the market have reached bottom.

### Employment Picture Improved

Anchorage's unemployment rate fell to 7.6% in 1988, the lowest it had been in three years. A falling unemployment rate has not always signified an improving job market. But last year's lower unemployment rate correctly forecast a better labor market. The labor market has since become more fluid for two main reasons: 1) the economy has begun to stabilize, and 2) the longest postwar national economic recovery has meant fewer job hunters are moving to Anchorage to compete with residents for jobs. Secondly, this means that those who are already employed are more inclined to look for a new job, the unemployed are more hopeful of finding a job, and promotions of existing employees are more prevalent. The gridlocked labor market of 1986-87 is now behind us.

Reports of worker shortages are growing in number. University of Alaska-Anchorage vocational programs had little trouble placing their graduates. The Anchorage Job Service Office's placements were up 7% in 1988. And want ads in local newspapers grew by 33% in 1988. While this doesn't mean that Anchorage's job market was replete with opportunities in 1988, it is at least a sign that the local economy is on the mend.

## Anchorage Construction - An Industry in Decline



Source: Alaska Department of Labor, Research & Analysis

### Summary: Anchorage Batting .500

The Anchorage industry scoreboard was batting .500 in 1988: half of the industries grew and the other half were still suffering declines. That's a good average compared to the year 1986-87 when nearly all Anchorage industries were striking out.

The job market has also improved. Looking for a job in the 1988 Anchorage labor market wasn't a hopeless undertaking.

In retrospect, 1988 may have been a watershed year. The passing of last year may have marked the end of the city's worst recession.

Most important, Anchorage's 1988 economy could have provided a firm base for growth of the 1989 economy.

### About the Author:

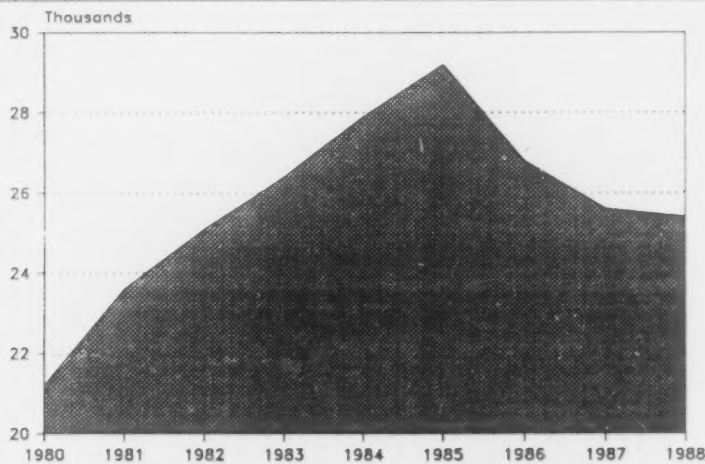
Neal Fried is a labor economist employed 10 years for the Research & Analysis Section, Administrative Services Division, Alaska Department of Labor. He is based in Anchorage.

# Fairbanks 1988: The Beginning of the End of a Three-year Slide

by Holly Stinson

**Figure 1**

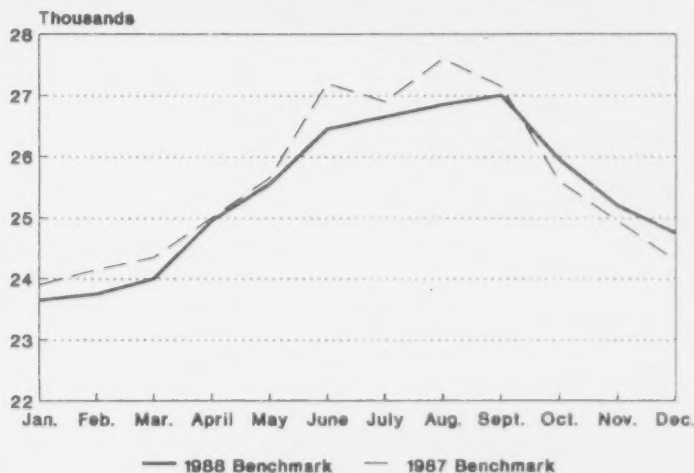
## Fairbanks Nonagricultural Employment 1980 - 1988



Source: Alaska Department of Labor, Research & Analysis

**Figure 2**

## Fairbanks Employment: 1987 - 1988



Source: Alaska Department of Labor, Research & Analysis

Fairbanks employment in 1988 continued to show over-the-year losses. But the past two years' precipitous decline in jobs slowed considerably (as illustrated in Figure 1). The 1988 annual average of 25,400 jobs is only 0.6% below the prior year's average (see Table 1), and it is slightly above 1982 levels.

Preliminary employment estimates paint a rosier picture for the 1988 Fairbanks economy than do the revised benchmark numbers. (An explanation of the 'benchmarking' procedure appears in a story elsewhere in this issue of Trends entitled, "On the Annual Benchmark Revision".) Yet even the benchmark numbers show that the Fairbanks economy, employment-wise, turned the corner in October 1988. The benchmark employment numbers also show that the months of November and December remained above year-ago levels. (See Figure 2.)

### Some Industries Gained in 1988, Some Lost, Others Remained Flat

No single industry in Fairbanks experienced a large job gain or a large job loss in 1988. Employment in some industries remained flat over all 12 months of last year. The mining and government sectors each retained the same annual average employment in 1988 as they had in 1987. The retail trade and manufacturing sectors each enjoyed a slight increase in the number of 1988 jobs compared to their 1987 levels.

The services, wholesale trade, and FIRE (Finance, Insurance and Real Estate) sectors all lost employment in 1988. While still representing considerable losses, these numbers were a marked improvement over the years 1986 and 1987 when several hundred jobs were lost in some industries.

### The Number of Mine and Government Workers Held Their Own

The mining industry retained its year-ago levels. Mining may be a bright economic spot in Fairbanks' future. During the first three quarters of 1988, the number of mining claims filed in the Fairbanks recording district rose 200% over those filed in the same period of the prior year. (See Figure 3.) Renewed interest in lode gold deposits accounted for much of the increase. Statewide, 11,009 claims were filed in 1988. This is almost twice the number filed just two years ago. As in earlier years when mining was Fairbanks' economic backbone, the industry could play a more important role in the future.

By far, the greatest number of Fairbanks workers are employed in the government sector. In 1988, government garnered 36% of Fairbanks' total wage and salary employment. Government employment has constituted 33% to 36% of Fairbanks' total jobs throughout this decade.

Federal employment dropped slightly from the record high levels of 1987. Contrary to most other sectors of the Fairbanks economy, federal employment has grown steadily during this decade. Civilian military employment fell slightly during 1988 (while uniformed military grew) due to federal budget cuts. The civilian military reduction in force is said to be complete with no added cuts predicted for this calendar year. Increases in other federal jobs allowed Fairbanks' total federal employment numbers in 1988 to equal those of 1987.

**Table 1**

### Fairbanks North Star Borough Wage and Salary Employment 1987-1988

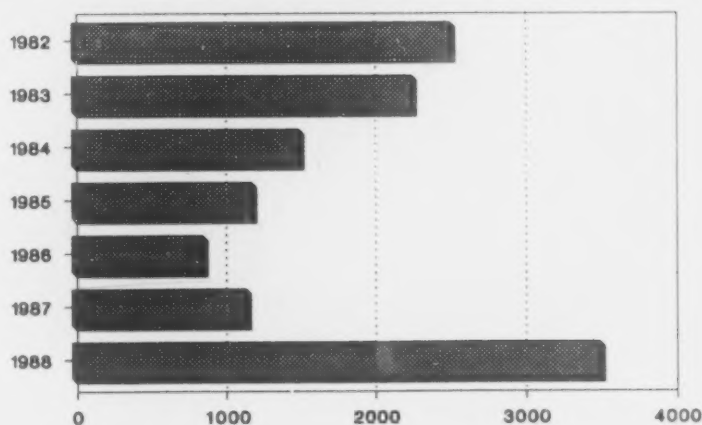
|                                 | 1987   | 1988   | Percent<br>Change<br>1987-1988 |
|---------------------------------|--------|--------|--------------------------------|
| Nonag. Wage & Salary            | 25,550 | 25,400 | 0.6                            |
| Mining                          | 150    | 150    | 0.0                            |
| Construction                    | 1,550  | 1,500  | -3.2                           |
| Manufacturing                   | 550    | 600    | 9.1                            |
| Trans., Comm. & Utilities       | 2,000  | 1,850  | -7.5                           |
| Trucking & Warehousing          | 350    | 400    | 14.3                           |
| Air Transportation              | 350    | 300    | -14.3                          |
| Other Trans., Comm. & Utilities | 1,300  | 1,150  | -11.5                          |
| Trade                           | 5,550  | 5,700  | 2.7                            |
| Wholesale                       | 750    | 700    | -6.7                           |
| Retail                          | 4,800  | 5,000  | 4.2                            |
| Food Stores                     | 750    | 750    | 0.0                            |
| All Other Trade                 | 4,050  | 4,200  | 3.7                            |
| Finance, Ins. & Real Estate     | 850    | 800    | -5.9                           |
| Services & Miscellaneous        | 5,800  | 5,700  | -1.7                           |
| Government                      | 9,150  | 9,150  | 0.0                            |
| Federal                         | 2,850  | 2,750  | -3.5                           |
| State                           | 3,750  | 3,850  | 2.7                            |
| Local                           | 2,600  | 2,550  | -1.9                           |

Annual averages may not add due to rounding.

Source: Alaska Department of Labor, Research & Analysis

**Figure 3**

### Fairbanks District New Mining Claims 1<sup>st</sup> through 3<sup>rd</sup> Qtrs. 1982 - 1988



Source: Alaska Department of Labor, Research & Analysis

Not included in federal employment numbers are the uniformed military, a group whose employment numbers have grown steadily in Fairbanks. (See Figure 4.) While the uniformed military

grew by 696 in 1988, the number of their dependents grew only by 72. The usual soldiers-to-dependents ratio has traditionally been 1 to 1.5. Because the 1988 ratio does not match the

traditional ratio, last year's impact of new uniformed military and their dependents may be limited.

The education portion of local government showed very little change from 1987. Also showing little change during the year was school enrollment.

As a result of 1988 reductions in the city's budget, local government employment dropped slightly. The reductions were small enough, though, to allow local government employment to remain flat in 1988.

Finally, state government employment rose slightly due partly to employment growth at University of Alaska-Fairbanks.

### Construction Employment Remained Depressed

Fairbanks' construction industry lost 50 jobs in 1988. This past year's level was less than half of what it was in 1985. Construction in 1988 of new residential and commercial buildings was the lowest ever of this decade. While 1987 construction permits hit a

low record, 1988 construction permits fell even further. To put it into perspective: the 1987 Fairbanks residential building permits amounted to 131, a lesser number of permits for any year as far back as 1970; the 1988 residential building permits declined even further to the minuscule number of 37.

The federal government spent in 1988 almost \$100 million for new military facilities near Fairbanks; these building projects prevented the number of construction jobs from declining even further. Without an increased state capital budget, employment in this industry is likely to linger at recessionary levels.

### There's No Consensus on '88 Tourism Traffic

Fairbanks' services sector jobs in 1988 dropped by an even 100. Although benchmark numbers show greater employment for this sector than did the original estimates, still there were fewer service sector jobs in 1988 than in the prior year. The greatest divergence between 1987 and 1988

service sector employment levels occurred during each of the two years' summer months; summer 1988 levels were far below those of 1987.

Accounts differ on whether Fairbanks' 1988 summer tourism season was better or worse than 1987. But while the number of tourists may have been up, there were more 'self-contained' visitors in 1988 who made less use of local services. ('Self-contained visitors' are those who pass through via organized tour or who are travelling via recreational vehicle.) Evidence of this change is seen in the hotel/motel industry which endured a 38% drop from 1987 employment levels.

While Fairbanks' 1988 wholesale trade was down, retail trade was up by the same amount. Merchants reported a good holiday season in November and December, an indicator of a recovering economy.

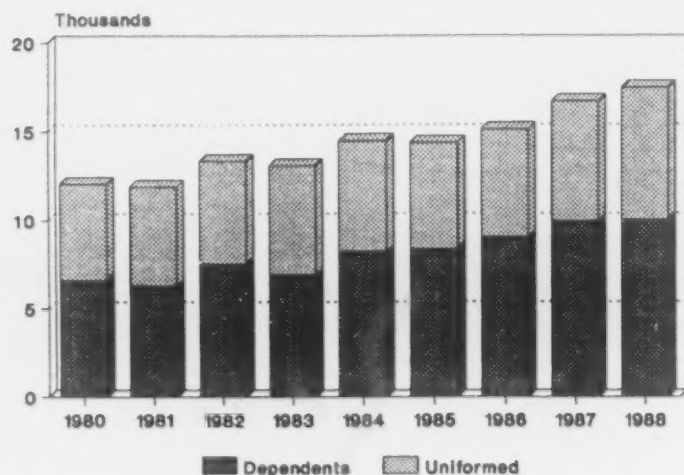
### There were Fewer Bankruptcies in 1988

The finance, insurance and real estate industries (FIRE) remained sickly last year, losing over 6% of their total jobs from 1987 to 1988. The number of bankruptcies and foreclosures through November 1988 were closely comparable to the high levels of 1987. There is one hopeful sign for this industry: the number of businesses declaring bankruptcy in 1988 began to decrease.

### Summary: The Employment Slide Turned Around in 1988

The 1988 Fairbanks economy may not have hit the bottom of Alaska's mid-80s recession. However, there were encouraging signs in 1988 that the bottom was near. Employment levels did not slide at the same pace they had in earlier years. Further, employment numbers either remained at year-ago levels or grew slightly for half of the eight major industry groups. In 1987, only one industry could make that

**Figure 4**  
**Fairbanks Military Presence 1980 - 1988**  
(Uniformed Personnel and Dependents)



Source: Fairbanks Community Research Quarterly

claim. And although summer 1988 employment numbers were lower than those of summer 1987, Fairbanks' year ended on a hopeful note: there was more job growth during the final three months of 1988 than there had been in the corresponding months of 1987.

*About the Author:*

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# The Southeast Outperformed the Rest of the State in '88

by Brian N. Rae

**B**enchmarked 1988 employment data for the Southeast Region confirms two prior assumptions: that the recession bottomed out last year, and that the economy is now showing strong growth. (See Figure 1.) Earlier monthly estimates indicated this turnaround but understated its magnitude.

The benchmarked employment estimates are in most cases higher than earlier estimates. Annual average employment in the region last year was 30,650, more than 5.3% (or 1,550) above 1987 employment levels. (See Table 1.)

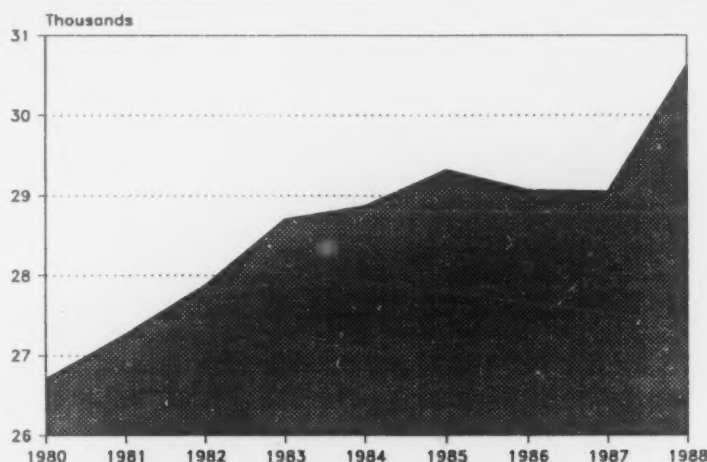
## Resource Industries Gain; Construction and FIRE Sectors Lose

In many ways, the Southeast Region's economy differs from the rest of the state. The 1986 oil price crash caused few direct employment losses within the region. (See Figure 2.) Unlike many other areas of the state, there is little employment directly related to petroleum production. Instead, much of the recent employment declines came from reduced government spending.

Government spending can be broken out into two parts: direct expenditures to assist localities, and spending associated with the operation of statewide programs from the capital city. Both parts are important to the Southeast Region's overall economy.

*Figure 1*

## Southeast Nonagricultural Employment 1980 - 1988



Source: Alaska Department of Labor, Research & Analysis

Indeed, the drop in oil prices hurt both parts and the drop was felt throughout most of the economy.

The region continues to benefit from its natural resource industries. Over the past few years the rebounding markets for timber, minerals, and fish have boosted parts of the region's economy

during the oil price drops and related employment declines. These rebounding markets helped counterbalance government spending cuts by injecting additional dollars into the economy. Many businesses in the support sectors (Services, Finance, Insurance and Real Estate [FIRE], Transportation, Communications and

Utilities [TCU], and Trade) are sensitive to the amount of money flowing within the economy and do not rely on the health of one particular industry.

The benchmark numbers show the unequal distribution of employment gains. Or said another way, the numbers show the shifting employment trends among industries. Construction actually posted a small employment decline in 1988 as compared to 1987. Two resource industries — lumber and seafood processing — reaped the greatest gains in 1988 with increases of 16.9% and 21.7%, respectively. Such large increases, accompanied by new developments in the mining industry, helped many support sector industries post gains from the prior year. Mining employment, though still very small, doubled between 1988 and 1987. Large gains in the mining sector are expected to continue. But for now, the impact of these mining ventures is felt mainly in the money added to local economies through exploration and development.

As noted earlier, construction fell below its 1987 employment level. Construction employment fell 4.5% in 1988, which translates into a loss of about 50 jobs on an annual average basis. This 'annual average' distinction is important because construction is primarily a seasonal industry. If an average worker is employed for six months during the year, this decline translates into a loss of 100 jobs. Even with these losses, the industry fared much better in the Southeast Region than in the other regions where the statewide loss was almost 14%.

FIRE employment remained level over the year. This region's FIRE sector firms faced similar problems plaguing these industries elsewhere in Alaska and in other oil producing states. Under normal circumstances, the FIRE industries would have posted gains similar to other support sector industries. Still, the fact that FIRE employment didn't decline last year demonstrates that the Southeast

Table 1

### Southeast Region Wage and Salary Employment 1987-1988

|                                                 | 1987   | 1988   | Percent Change |
|-------------------------------------------------|--------|--------|----------------|
| Nonag. Wage & Salary                            | 29,100 | 30,650 | 5.3            |
| Mining                                          | 100    | 200    | 100.0          |
| Construction                                    | 1,100  | 1,050  | -4.5           |
| Manufacturing                                   | 4,350  | 5,150  | 18.4           |
| Seafood Processing                              | 1,150  | 1,400  | 21.7           |
| Lumber & Paper Products                         | 2,950  | 3,450  | 16.9           |
| All Other Manufacturing                         | 250    | 300    | 20.0           |
| Trans. Comm. & Utilities                        | 2,150  | 2,250  | 4.7            |
| Trade                                           | 4,600  | 4,800  | 4.3            |
| Wholesale                                       | 400    | 450    | 12.5           |
| Retail                                          | 4,200  | 4,350  | 3.6            |
| Finance, Ins. & Real Estate                     | 1,050  | 1,050  | 0.0            |
| Services                                        | 4,600  | 4,800  | 4.3            |
| Government                                      | 11,200 | 11,450 | 2.2            |
| Federal                                         | 2,000  | 2,000  | 0.0            |
| State                                           | 5,000  | 5,150  | 3.0            |
| Local                                           | 4,200  | 4,300  | 2.4            |
| Employment as a Percentage of Total Employment: |        |        |                |
| Private Sector                                  | 61.6   | 62.8   |                |
| Public Sector                                   | 38.4   | 37.2   |                |

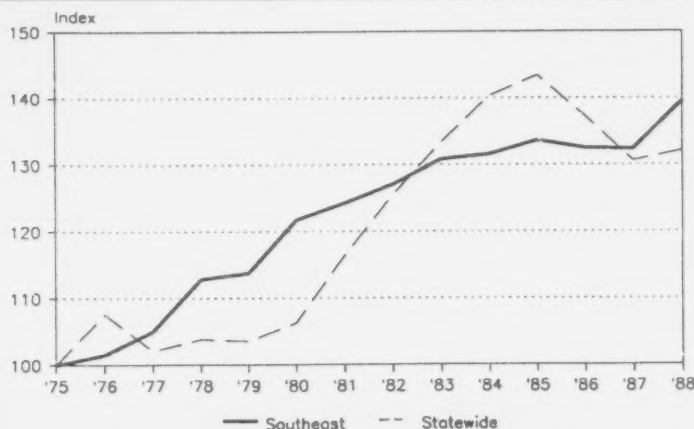
Annual averages may not add due to rounding.

Source: Alaska Department of Labor, Research & Analysis

Figure 2

### Southeast and Statewide Employment Index 1975 - 1988

(1975 = 100)



Source: Alaska Department of Labor, Research & Analysis

Region enjoyed more stable economic health in 1988 than many other areas of the state.

The Southeast's star performer of 1987, timber employment, was again a growth leader in 1988. Even after adjusting for higher than expected employment levels in 1987, the 1988 annual average posted an increase of 16.9% over the year. At 500 new jobs, the timber industry saw the greatest hike in employment levels for 1988. Continued strong demand for wood products brought the greatest employment gains to the industry's logging and sawmill businesses.

Seafood processing, the other major component in the region's manufacturing sector, posted employment gains of 250 over 1987 levels. Although the harvest of salmon was not as high as predicted, processing of other seafood products allowed employment to grow more than 20%. Because the industry is seasonal, the number of additional jobs during the season was actually higher than 250.

### **Mining Employment Doubled**

On a percentage basis, no other industry comes close to the growth in mining. This small industry is growing in importance in the Southeast, both in terms of employment and dollars. In 1988 employment was 200, double that of the previous year. This type of growth will likely continue for the next few years as more projects come on line.

### **Trade and Services Sectors Gained**

Trade employment increased by 200 over the year, a rise of 4.3%. Both wholesale and retail trade shared in the gains, with wholesale posting a larger percentage increase. The Southeast trade sector is heavily influenced by the health of the tourist season, although tourism's actual impact is difficult to quantify. Such strong employment growth, though,

could only occur as a result of a strengthened area economy.

The 1988 services sector growth was similar to that of trade — up 4.3% over the year. Like the trade sector, services industries are a barometer of the area's economic health, shrinking during bad times and expanding during the better times. Much of the 1988 growth in services occurred in hotel and motel employment. This reflects a strong tourist season and increased emphasis on luring independent travelers to the state.

### **Transportation, Communications & Utility Industries Post Small Gain**

Of all the sectors gaining employment during 1988, TCU posted the smallest gain, 4.7%. This gain was almost entirely within the air transportation industry. Other TCU industries retained their prior year's employment levels.

### **Government Lags Behind Private Sector**

The Southeast Region's public sector expanded at a slower rate than the private sector. Government employment in 1988 gained by 250 jobs over the 1987 level. Most of this increase came in state government, which increased by 3.0%. Local government employment rose by 2.4%. In 1988, public sector jobs accounted for 37.2% of all Southeast employment; this is a drop from the prior year when 38.4% of all Southeast workers were employed in the public sector.

### **Summary: 1988 Likely the Year of the Turnaround**

The monthly 1988 employment estimates for Southeast Alaska showed the area's economy outperforming other areas of the state. When measuring employment, the Southeast has fared

better than other regions in prior years, too. Southeast Region employment losses in previous years were less than other areas' losses. And in 1988, the region showed over-the-year employment gains several months before other areas. Throughout the year, the monthly estimates showed employment growing at a much faster rate than the rest of Alaska. It appears that the initial 1988 estimates were pessimistic.

For the entire private sector, Southeast employment increased by 7.3% during 1988. Of course, 1987 was not one of the better years for the state or the Southeast as many people had lost jobs. Under these circumstances employment increases were expected. Many people waiting for signs of an economic turnaround likely saw it in 1988. The Southeast Region posted employment gains in 1988 normally associated with a prospering economy, not one which only two years earlier questioned its future.

Like the rest of the state, growth was unevenly distributed among all industries. Likewise, the recovery left behind some Southeast areas because the areas lacked the prospering industries. Most of these areas, however, were affected less negatively by the recession, which began in 1985, than the now prospering areas of the Southeast Region.

Although there are many different events which could derail the Southeast Region's latest round of economic growth, the initial shock of the 1985 recession seems to be over.

### *About the Author:*

Brian Rae is a labor economist employed four years with the Research & Analysis Section, Administrative Services Division, Alaska Department of Labor. He is based in Juneau.

# Gulf Coast 1988: Overall, It Was a Growth Year — 2.9%

by Holly Stinson

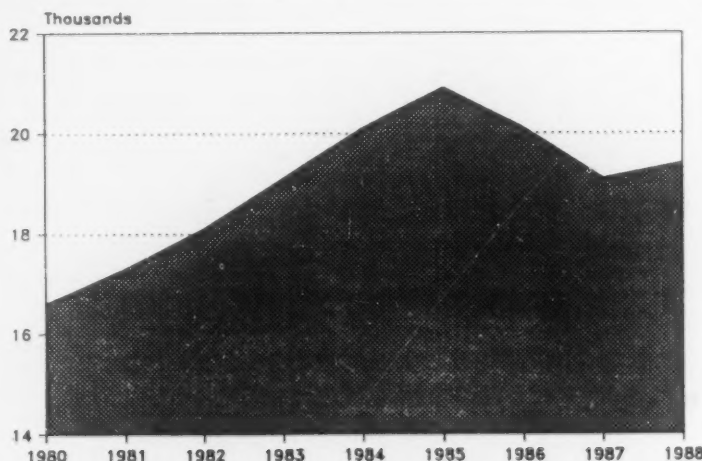
**T**he Gulf Coast region encompasses the Valdez-Cordova Census Area and the Kenai Peninsula and Kodiak Island boroughs. Although most of this region's major towns are linked by the Gulf of Alaska, their economies are in many ways dissimilar.

For example, oil industry employment is important in Kenai and Valdez, while the fishing industry dominates Kodiak and Cordova. The unemployment rate in the Valdez-Cordova Census Area is often twice as high as the Kodiak rate, and the Kenai Peninsula borough rate is higher still. While some areas performed better economically than others in 1988, overall, the region enjoyed a better year in 1988 than during the prior two years.

Like many Alaska regions, summer in the Gulf Coast is synonymous with salmon and tourists. But the Gulf Coast Region's summer of 1988 also heralded the beginning of an employment turnaround. June employment numbers outpaced the prior year's numbers, and the trend continued throughout the remainder of 1988. Although level of employment growth wasn't large (2.9% above 1987), this growth of 550 jobs was the region's first employment upswing in three years. (See Figure 1.)

Figure 1

## Gulf Coast Nonagricultural Employment 1980 - 1988



Source: Alaska Department of Labor, Research & Analysis

### Construction Employment Lost, FIRE Didn't

Despite a trace of growth, not every sector of the Gulf Coast economy performed well in 1988. The construction industry showed annual average employment levels below those of 1987. FIRE (the Finance, Insurance and Real Estate industries) employment remained at year-ago levels. (See Table 1.)

The region's 1988 construction industry employment levels were the lowest of this entire decade. Despite the Bradley Lake Hydroelectric Project near Homer and other less extensive projects in the region, construction employment continued to fall. The region's number of jobs in 1988 was 20% below 1980 levels. The decline

has at least slowed, though — to 10.5% from 1987 to 1988, compared to losses higher than 30% in each of the two prior years. A minuscule state capital budget — minuscule, at least, compared to the capital budgets of 1982 through 1986 — will probably keep construction employment low for many years to come.

FIRE was the only other Gulf Coast sector that didn't gain employment in 1988. Although the recession may be over for most industries, its effects linger in the finance, insurance and real estate industries.

### Those Gaining Employment were ...

#### ... Government,

State government (which includes University of Alaska personnel) gained 150 jobs last year, while federal and local government employment remained flat. Total government employment accounted for 28% of all the region's wage and salary employment.

#### ... Transportation, Communications & Utilities,

The transportation, communications and utilities sector also gained about 100 jobs in 1988. Modest gains in transportation employment, especially during the summer months, accounted for most of the growth.

#### ... Services, and

The services sector showed annual average growth of 100 jobs, too. This sector's total employment numbers are greater than either the transportation, state or federal government industries, so its 1988 growth showed up as a modest 3% increase. Small employment gains in the services sector reflect increases in the area's two major industries, manufacturing and tourism. The increased number of cruise ships venturing north to the Gulf Coast

|                             | 1987   | 1988   | Percent<br>Change<br>1987-1988 |
|-----------------------------|--------|--------|--------------------------------|
| Nonag. Wage & Salary        | 19,100 | 19,650 | 2.9                            |
| Mining                      | 750    | 800    | 6.7                            |
| Construction                | 950    | 850    | -10.5                          |
| Manufacturing               | 3,350  | 3,550  | 6.0                            |
| Seafood Processing          | 2,750  | 2,900  | 5.5                            |
| All Other Manufacturing     | 600    | 650    | 8.3                            |
| Trans., Comm. & Utilities   | 1,350  | 1,400  | 3.7                            |
| Trade                       | 3,550  | 3,650  | 2.8                            |
| Wholesale                   | 500    | 550    | 10.0                           |
| Retail                      | 3,050  | 3,100  | 1.6                            |
| Finance, Ins. & Real Estate | 550    | 550    | 0.0                            |
| Services                    | 3,250  | 3,350  | 3.1                            |
| Government                  | 5,300  | 5,500  | 3.8                            |
| Federal                     | 550    | 550    | 0.0                            |
| State                       | 1,500  | 1,650  | 10.0                           |
| Local                       | 3,300  | 3,300  | 0.0                            |

Annual averages may not add due to rounding.

Source: Alaska Department of Labor, Research & Analysis

during the summer of 1988 augmented the usual number of tourists stopping at the region's ports.

#### ... Seafood Processing.

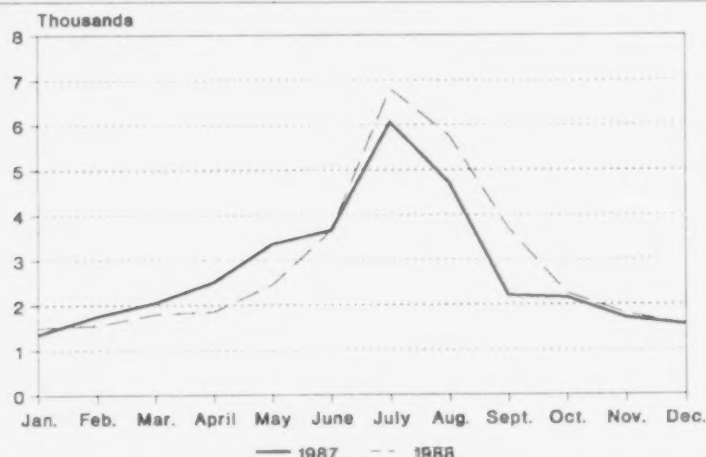
Seafood processing, which comprises most of the Gulf Coast manufacturing industry, gained 150 jobs over the past year. Employment during the busy months of July, August and September was well above year-ago levels. (See Figure 2.) Additional bottomfishing activity, coupled with a good salmon harvest contributed to this industry's growth.

While the total poundage of salmon caught was not a record breaker, elevated prices kept the harvest value high. High enough, as a matter of fact, to give Prince William Sound its second best salmon harvest in history — \$62 million. What's more, that record-breaking harvest occurred with only one-third of the Sound's predicted pink salmon run. Kodiak performed well, too. Its 1988 salmon harvest set an all-time record value of over \$100 million.

New dollar records set for Prince William Sound and Kodiak salmon fisheries.

Figure 2

## Gulf Coast Seafood Employment 1987 - 1988



Source: Alaska Department of Labor, Research & Analysis

Gulf Coast's 1988  
employment picture  
was improved compared  
to the prior three years.

In the growing bottomfish industry, the first bottomfish factory trawler to adopt Alaska as a base of operations arrived in Homer in May. The same company plans by 1990 to call Homer home for two more trawlers. Supplying these trawlers will boost many sectors of Homer's economy. Further, the factory trawler owners' recent decision to adopt Homer as a home port provided the impetus for the city to build a new dock in 1989.

The region's 1988 shellfish harvest failed to hold its own with the bottomfish and salmon industries. Its harvest was, like the prior year, poor. The winter 1988-89 tanner crab season in some areas was closed due to low stocks. Successive poor shellfish harvests caused a Kodiak crab processing plant to be converted into a

surimi processing operation. The conversion, which speaks well to the business' ability to adapt to a changing economy, was made in response to a thriving bottomfish industry and the depressed crab industry.

Logging, which started up in the Valdez-Cordova and Kenai Peninsula areas, contributed to an 8.3% rise in 'All Other Manufacturing' employment. And both of the wholesale and retail portions the trade sector also enjoyed job growth in 1988.

### Summary:

#### 2.9% Overall Growth in 1988

Modest 1988 employment increases in all sectors except FIRE and construction contributed to a 2.9% overall growth rate for the Gulf Coast region last year.

New business ventures, adaptation of existing ones, and high salmon prices contributed to a better 1988 employment picture than the region had experienced in the prior three years.

# Economy's January Start Was Solid

By Neal Fried

**R**ecord cold January temperatures didn't influence the Alaska economy during that first month of 1989. The state's economy warmed up to the new year and started it on a positive footing. It was a first; in the prior three months of January, the condition of the economy had reflected the usual cold temperatures of that time of year.

## Yes, the Recession is Largely Behind Us

Many believe that 1989 will usher in a new economic era. Most pundits predict slow and steady growth. They could be proven wrong, however, if construction on some large project — such as the construction of a gas line — is started. On the other hand, the economy could stagnate, or worse, be derailed if the present oil revenue shortfall is not offset by some means. None of these scenarios can be discounted; but at least given what we now know, 1988 did lay a firm base for 1989 growth. Indeed, January's economic indicators reflect this growth.

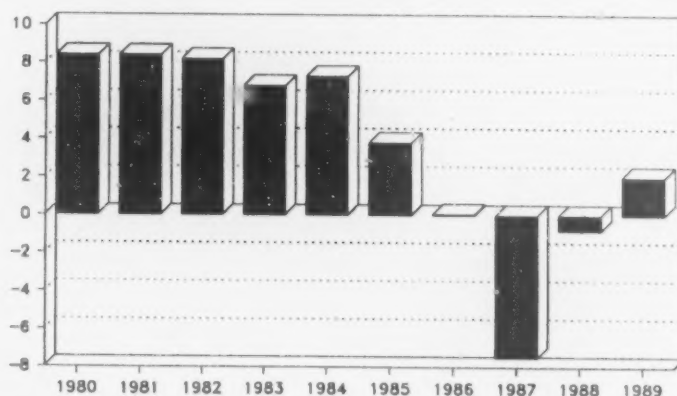
## A Buoyant Employment Picture

Alaska's wage and salary employment recorded a two percent gain in January. (See Figure 1.) Nearly all of Alaska's industries are enjoying employment growth. Four industry sectors demonstrate real vitality; they are mining, retail trade, services, and government.

## The Entire Mining Industry Is Looking Good

Compared to year-ago levels, January 1989 oil industry employment rose by 1,000 jobs. ARCO announced plans during the month to spend \$375 million on production and exploration in 1989. That increased expenditure represents a 70% rise over 1988 levels. And BP Exploration officials say the company plans to spend this year \$425 million on various capital expenditures; this represents a 31% increase over the company's 1988 expenditure levels. Further, there was more good news on the petroleum front. Oil prices looked particularly strong in January; the average spot price for North Slope crude was \$16.63 in the first month of the new year. (Oil prices hadn't exceeded \$16 during all of 1988.) Strong demand,

**Alaska's January Employment  
— Percentage Change from Prior Years**



Source: Alaska Department of Labor, Research & Analysis

coupled with general OPEC compliance on quotas, helped firm up prices.

The rest of the mining industry (albeit small — 750 jobs in January) also continued to flourish. The Greens Creek and Red Dog operations moved closer to production. Additionally, exploration and development activity grew at mine sites located elsewhere in the state.

### Retailers: They're Happy

Most retailers in the state reported a stellar Christmas season. Formerly reluctant, consumers today are demonstrating an increasing confidence in the economy. Growing personal income certainly helps, too. Alaska's third quarter 1988 personal income figures (the most recent figures available) came in 4.8% higher than the corresponding quarter of 1987. All of this points to rising employment numbers in the retail industry, up by 2.8%.

Figure 2

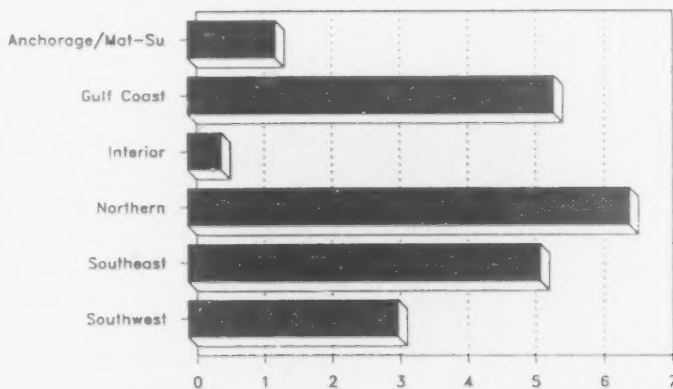
### Alaska's January Construction Employment — Percentage Change from Prior Years



Source: Alaska Department of Labor, Research & Analysis

Figure 3

### Employment Growth by Region — Percentage Change from Jan. '88 to Jan. '89



Source: Alaska Department of Labor, Research & Analysis

### Government Picture Is Mixed

Total federal employment fell despite growing troop levels. The military budget tightened late last year, causing a cut in the military civilian employment numbers. Military officials say they do not anticipate any more civilian cuts.

Offsetting the federal cuts were state and local government employment gains. These two government agencies were responsible for keeping total government employment figures growing during January.

### Construction

#### Continued to Decline, but ...

... An end to the construction descent may be in sight. It has remained unclear when these losses might cease. While this doesn't comfort an industry that has lost 12,000 jobs over the past five years, it's pertinent to remember that the industry is now operating at levels not seen since 1973. Although January employment numbers were 500 jobs — or 7.7% — below year-ago levels, this level is a dramatic improvement compared to the 1986-1988 double digit losses. (See Figure 2.) Given this kind of new year start, the state's construction industry may finally find some firmer ground in 1989.

## Some Regional Economies Robust

For the first time in four years, over-the-year employment growth was registered in all regions in January. (See Figure 3.) This is not to say that all areas of the state are out of the woods and prospering. It does mean, though, that the state's general economic complexion is improving. Further, some regions' economies can be fairly characterized as being robust. Included in this prosperous camp are the Southeast, Gulf Coast and Southwest regions. These three economies were growing at an annual rate of 3% or better in January.

## Few Traces of Recession Linger in Southeast

All pistons are firing in Southeast's economy — tourism, timber, government, and fishing. The Southeast economy in January grew at an annual clip of 5%, a rate commensurate with the boom year of 1984. The region's timber industry has experienced problems finding enough loggers, and its mills are running at full tilt. Although January's cold weather and deep snows slowed things, the mills were expected to be back in full swing by late March. The Green's Creek Juneau area operation has moved from the construction phase to the mining phase. Presently, the mine employs 147 production and 50 administrative workers. Another symptom of the region's vigorous economic health is the rising cost of rent; rent prices are actually beginning to climb again in a once glutted Juneau real estate market. Few traces of a recession linger in Southeast's economy.

## Fishing Industry Propelling Southwest and Gulf Coast Regions

The Southwest and Gulf Coast regions continued to show healthy winter employment numbers because of a strong fishery. Two new fish processing

plants opened up recently in the regions. Western Alaska Fisheries opened a surimi/bottomfish plant in Kodiak, and the St. Paul village corporation's fur seal processing plant will now process Opilio crab. For Unalaska, there's also good news: Unisea recently announced plans to build a \$50 million fish processing facility there. And other businesses, such as Seafoods From Alaska, Inc., are expanding facilities. Military related activity in the Aleutian Islands is also contributing to Southwest's growing economy.

Table 1

## Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment By Place of Work Alaska

|                             | Changes From: |             |         |        |       |
|-----------------------------|---------------|-------------|---------|--------|-------|
|                             | p/<br>1/89    | r/<br>12/88 | 1/88    | 12/88  | 1/88  |
| Nonag. Wage & Salary        | 199,200       | 207,100     | 195,200 | -7,900 | 4,000 |
| Mining                      | 9,300         | 9,300       | 8,100   | 0      | 1,200 |
| Construction                | 6,300         | 6,700       | 6,800   | -400   | -500  |
| Manufacturing               | 9,800         | 10,900      | 9,500   | -1,100 | 300   |
| Seafood Processing          | 4,400         | 4,200       | 4,500   | 200    | 100   |
| Lumber & Paper Products     | 2,200         | 3,400       | 2,100   | -1,200 | 100   |
| All Other Manufacturing     | 3,200         | 3,300       | 3,100   | -100   | 100   |
| Transportation              | 16,100        | 16,800      | 16,100  | -700   | 0     |
| Trucking & Warehousing      | 2,100         | 2,200       | 2,100   | -100   | 0     |
| Water Transportation        | 800           | 1,000       | 800     | -200   | 0     |
| Air Transportation          | 5,200         | 5,300       | 5,100   | -100   | 100   |
| Communications              | 3,100         | 3,200       | 3,300   | -100   | -200  |
| All Other Transportation    | 4,900         | 5,100       | 4,800   | -200   | 100   |
| Trade                       | 39,900        | 42,400      | 38,800  | -2,500 | 1,100 |
| Wholesale                   | 7,200         | 7,400       | 7,000   | -200   | 200   |
| Retail                      | 32,700        | 35,000      | 31,800  | -2,300 | 900   |
| Gen. Merch. & Apparel       | 4,800         | 5,600       | 4,700   | -800   | 100   |
| Food Stores                 | 5,900         | 6,100       | 5,800   | -200   | 100   |
| Eating & Drinking Places    | 11,800        | 12,200      | 11,400  | -400   | 400   |
| All Other Retail            | 10,200        | 11,100      | 9,900   | -900   | 300   |
| Finance, Ins. & Real Estate | 10,500        | 10,400      | 10,800  | 100    | -300  |
| Services                    | 41,300        | 42,400      | 40,200  | -1,100 | 1,100 |
| Hotels & Other Lodging      | 3,900         | 4,000       | 3,900   | -100   | 0     |
| Government                  | 66,000        | 68,200      | 64,900  | -2,200 | 1,100 |
| Federal                     | 17,400        | 18,000      | 17,700  | -600   | -300  |
| State                       | 19,000        | 20,000      | 18,000  | -1,000 | 1,000 |
| Local                       | 29,600        | 30,200      | 29,200  | -600   | 400   |

Prepared in cooperation with the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Government includes teachers in primary and secondary schools, and personnel employed by the University of Alaska.

Benchmark Date: March 1988.

p/ denotes Preliminary Estimates.  
r/ denotes Revised Estimates.

Source: Alaska Department of Labor, Research & Analysis

Table 2

## Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment By Place of Work

### Anchorage Borough

|                             | Changes From: |             |        |        |       |
|-----------------------------|---------------|-------------|--------|--------|-------|
|                             | p/<br>1/89    | r/<br>12/88 | 1/88   | 12/88  | 1/88  |
| Nonag. Wage & Salary        | 97,750        | 100,300     | 96,300 | -2,550 | 1,450 |
| Mining                      | 3,500         | 3,500       | 3,100  | 0      | 400   |
| Construction                | 3,150         | 3,250       | 3,700  | -100   | -550  |
| Manufacturing               | 2,000         | 1,950       | 2,100  | 50     | -100  |
| Transportation              | 8,750         | 9,000       | 8,800  | -250   | -50   |
| Trucking & Warehousing      | 1,500         | 1,500       | 1,350  | 0      | 150   |
| Water Transportation        | 250           | 300         | 250    | -50    | 0     |
| Air Transportation          | 3,150         | 3,200       | 3,150  | -50    | 0     |
| Communications              | 1,700         | 1,750       | 1,800  | -50    | -100  |
| All Other Transportation    | 2,150         | 2,250       | 2,250  | -100   | -100  |
| Trade                       | 23,950        | 24,750      | 22,900 | -800   | 1,050 |
| Wholesale                   | 5,600         | 5,800       | 5,350  | -200   | 250   |
| Retail                      | 18,350        | 18,950      | 17,550 | -600   | 800   |
| Gen. Merch. & Apparel       | 2,450         | 2,800       | 2,400  | -350   | 50    |
| Food Stores                 | 2,900         | 2,800       | 2,800  | 100    | 100   |
| Eating & Drinking Pl.       | 7,400         | 7,500       | 7,050  | -100   | 350   |
| All Other Retail            | 5,600         | 5,850       | 5,300  | -250   | 300   |
| Finance, Ins. & Real Estate | 7,100         | 7,150       | 7,200  | -50    | -100  |
| Services                    | 23,750        | 24,450      | 23,150 | -900   | 600   |
| Government                  | 25,550        | 26,250      | 25,350 | -700   | 200   |
| Federal                     | 10,350        | 10,400      | 10,450 | -50    | -100  |
| State                       | 6,700         | 7,300       | 6,300  | -600   | 400   |
| Local                       | 8,500         | 8,550       | 8,600  | -50    | -100  |

### Fairbanks North Star Borough

|                             | Changes From: |             |        |        |      |
|-----------------------------|---------------|-------------|--------|--------|------|
|                             | p/<br>1/89    | r/<br>12/88 | 1/88   | 12/88  | 1/88 |
| Nonag. Wage & Salary        | 23,700        | 24,750      | 23,650 | -1,050 | 50   |
| Mining                      | 100           | 100         | 100    | 0      | 0    |
| Construction                | 1,050         | 1,050       | 1,100  | 0      | -50  |
| Manufacturing               | 500           | 550         | 450    | -50    | 50   |
| Transportation              | 1,800         | 1,800       | 1,600  | 0      | 200  |
| Trucking & Warehousing      | 400           | 400         | 300    | 0      | 100  |
| Air Transportation          | 300           | 300         | 300    | 0      | 0    |
| All Other Transportation    | 1,100         | 1,100       | 1,000  | 0      | 100  |
| Trade                       | 5,100         | 5,450       | 5,100  | -350   | 0    |
| Wholesale                   | 650           | 650         | 650    | 0      | 0    |
| Retail                      | 4,450         | 4,800       | 4,450  | -350   | 0    |
| Food Stores                 | 700           | 750         | 750    | -50    | -50  |
| All Other Retail            | 3,750         | 4,050       | 3,700  | -300   | 50   |
| Finance, Ins. & Real Estate | 750           | 750         | 900    | 0      | -150 |
| Services                    | 5,450         | 5,500       | 5,450  | -50    | 0    |
| Government                  | 9,000         | 9,550       | 8,950  | -550   | 50   |
| Federal                     | 2,700         | 2,750       | 2,750  | -50    | -50  |
| State                       | 3,650         | 4,100       | 3,650  | -450   | 0    |
| Local                       | 2,700         | 2,700       | 2,550  | 0      | 150  |

### Anchorage-MatSu Region

|                             | Changes From: |             |         |        |       |
|-----------------------------|---------------|-------------|---------|--------|-------|
|                             | p/<br>1/89    | r/<br>12/88 | 1/88    | 12/88  | 1/88  |
| Nonag. Wage & Salary        | 103,750       | 106,600     | 102,300 | -2,850 | 1,450 |
| Mining                      | 3,500         | 3,500       | 3,100   | 0      | 400   |
| Construction                | 3,400         | 3,500       | 3,850   | -100   | -450  |
| Manufacturing               | 2,100         | 2,050       | 2,150   | 50     | -50   |
| Transportation              | 9,400         | 9,600       | 9,300   | -200   | -100  |
| Trade                       | 25,300        | 26,300      | 24,300  | -1,000 | 1,000 |
| Finance, Ins. & Real Estate | 7,450         | 7,500       | 7,600   | -50    | -150  |
| Services                    | 24,550        | 25,500      | 24,150  | -950   | 400   |
| Government                  | 27,950        | 28,650      | 27,650  | -700   | 300   |

### Interior Region

|                             | Changes From: |             |        |        |      |
|-----------------------------|---------------|-------------|--------|--------|------|
|                             | p/<br>1/89    | r/<br>12/88 | 1/88   | 12/88  | 1/88 |
| Nonag. Wage & Salary        | 27,150        | 28,150      | 27,050 | -1,000 | 100  |
| Mining                      | 250           | 250         | 200    | 0      | 50   |
| Construction                | 1,100         | 1,100       | 1,100  | 0      | 0    |
| Manufacturing               | 550           | 550         | 500    | 0      | 50   |
| Transportation              | 2,050         | 2,050       | 1,850  | 0      | 200  |
| Trade                       | 5,450         | 5,800       | 5,400  | -350   | 50   |
| Finance, Ins. & Real Estate | 800           | 800         | 1,000  | 0      | -200 |
| Services                    | 5,850         | 5,950       | 5,850  | -100   | 0    |
| Government                  | 11,100        | 11,650      | 11,150 | -550   | -50  |

Government includes teachers in primary and secondary schools, and personnel employed by the University of Alaska.

Benchmark Date: March 1988.

p/ denotes Preliminary Estimates.

r/ denotes Revised Estimates.

Source: Alaska Department of Labor, Research & Analysis

(Cont. on page 21)

Yet not all of the region's economies show a healthy glow. The Kenai/Soldotna area still suffers recessionary effects. There are signs, though, that the worst is behind them.

#### Anchorage and Fairbanks Not As Robust

Although Anchorage and Fairbanks can brag only about anemic growth in January, at least this growth is a

marked improvement over three solid years of big losses. Anchorage and Fairbanks posted over-the-year employment increases of 1.5% and 0.6%, respectively.

In the midst of an improving economic picture, Anchorage's financial industry was dealt a blow when Alaska State Bank shut its doors. But the bank's closure reflects more of what happened in yesterday's economy than today's economy.

## Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment By Place of Work

**Table 2**  
(Cont. from page 20)

### Southeast Region

Changes From:

|                             | p/<br>1/89 | r/<br>12/88 | 1/88   | 12/88  | 1/88  |
|-----------------------------|------------|-------------|--------|--------|-------|
| Nonag. Wage & Salary        | 27,450     | 29,450      | 26,100 | -2,000 | 1,350 |
| Mining                      | 200        | 200         | 150    | 0      | 50    |
| Construction                | 700        | 950         | 700    | -250   | 0     |
| Manufacturing               | 2,900      | 4,150       | 3,000  | -1,250 | -100  |
| Seafood Processing          | 650        | 600         | 700    | 50     | -50   |
| Lumber & Paper Products     | 2,000      | 3,250       | 2,050  | -1,250 | -50   |
| All Other Manufacturing     | 250        | 300         | 250    | -50    | 0     |
| Transportation              | 2,050      | 2,150       | 1,850  | -100   | 200   |
| Trade                       | 4,550      | 4,800       | 4,200  | -250   | 350   |
| Wholesale                   | 450        | 450         | 400    | 0      | 50    |
| Retail                      | 4,100      | 4,350       | 3,800  | -250   | 300   |
| Finance, Ins. & Real Estate | 1,050      | 1,000       | 1,000  | 50     | 50    |
| Services                    | 4,450      | 4,600       | 4,300  | -150   | 150   |
| Government                  | 11,550     | 11,600      | 10,900 | -50    | 650   |
| Federal                     | 1,900      | 2,050       | 1,900  | -150   | 0     |
| State                       | 5,300      | 5,100       | 4,850  | 200    | 450   |
| Local                       | 4,350      | 4,450       | 4,150  | -100   | 200   |

### Gulf Coast Region

Changes From:

|                             | p/<br>1/89 | r/<br>12/88 | 1/88   | 12/88 | 1/88 |
|-----------------------------|------------|-------------|--------|-------|------|
| Nonag. Wage & Salary        | 17,500     | 18,000      | 16,650 | -500  | 850  |
| Mining                      | 800        | 850         | 750    | -50   | 50   |
| Construction                | 600        | 700         | 600    | -100  | 0    |
| Manufacturing               | 2,200      | 2,200       | 2,100  | 0     | 100  |
| Seafood Processing          | 1,550      | 1,550       | 1,500  | 0     | 50   |
| All Other Manufacturing     | 650        | 650         | 600    | 0     | 50   |
| Transportation              | 1,350      | 1,350       | 1,300  | 0     | 50   |
| Trade                       | 3,350      | 3,550       | 3,150  | -200  | 200  |
| Wholesale                   | 500        | 450         | 450    | 50    | 50   |
| Retail                      | 2,850      | 3,100       | 2,700  | -250  | 150  |
| Finance, Ins. & Real Estate | 550        | 550         | 550    | 0     | 0    |
| Services                    | 3,100      | 3,150       | 3,000  | -50   | 100  |
| Government                  | 5,550      | 5,650       | 5,200  | -100  | 350  |
| Federal                     | 550        | 550         | 500    | 0     | 50   |
| State                       | 1,650      | 1,750       | 1,400  | -100  | 250  |
| Local                       | 3,350      | 3,350       | 3,300  | 0     | 50   |

### Southwest Region

Changes From:

|                      | p/<br>1/89 | r/<br>12/88 | 1/88   | 12/88 | 1/88 |
|----------------------|------------|-------------|--------|-------|------|
| Nonag. Wage & Salary | 11,800     | 11,700      | 11,200 | 100   | 600  |
| Seafood Processing   | 1,800      | 1,500       | 1,700  | 300   | 100  |
| All Other Private    | 3,900      | 4,050       | 3,850  | -150  | 50   |
| Government           | 6,100      | 6,150       | 5,650  | -50   | 450  |
| Federal              | 1,300      | 1,300       | 1,200  | 0     | 100  |
| State                | 650        | 550         | 400    | 100   | 250  |
| Local                | 4,150      | 4,300       | 4,050  | -150  | 100  |

### Northern Region

Changes From:

|                      | p/<br>1/89 | r/<br>12/88 | 1/88   | 12/88 | 1/88 |
|----------------------|------------|-------------|--------|-------|------|
| Nonag. Wage & Salary | 12,850     | 12,900      | 12,050 | -50   | 800  |
| Mining               | 4,750      | 4,750       | 3,900  | 0     | 850  |
| All Other Private    | 3,800      | 3,750       | 3,750  | 50    | 50   |
| Government           | 4,300      | 4,400       | 4,400  | -100  | -100 |
| Federal              | 350        | 350         | 350    | 0     | 0    |
| State                | 300        | 350         | 300    | -50   | 0    |
| Local                | 3,650      | 3,700       | 3,750  | -50   | -100 |

Government includes teachers in primary and secondary schools, and personnel employed by the University of Alaska.

Benchmark Date: March 1988.

p/ denotes Preliminary Estimates.

r/ denotes Revised Estimates.

Source: Alaska Department of Labor, Research & Analysis

A more interesting development in Anchorage's economy came out of the city demographer's office in January. The demographer believes Anchorage is no longer losing population. This represents a radical departure from the past three years when approximately 29,000 people left the city.

Fairbanks' economic landscape has changed little in the past four months. Military related construction continues to dominate new activity. And expanding work on the North Slope is breathing new life into the city's economy.

Table 3

Alaska Hours and Earnings for Selected Industries <sup>1/2</sup>

|                             | Average Weekly Earnings |             |            | Average Weekly Hours |             |      | Average Hourly Earnings |             |         |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------|-------------|------------|----------------------|-------------|------|-------------------------|-------------|---------|
|                             | P/<br>1/89              | R/<br>12/88 | 1/88       | P/<br>1/89           | R/<br>12/88 | 1/88 | P/<br>1/89              | R/<br>12/88 | 1/88    |
| Mining                      | \$1,158.91              | \$1,111.32  | \$1,160.62 | 50.3                 | 49.0        | 47.9 | \$23.04                 | \$22.68     | \$24.23 |
| Construction                | 898.40                  | 847.48      | 858.24     | 40.0                 | 37.4        | 36.0 | 22.46                   | 22.66       | 23.84   |
| Manufacturing               | 475.69                  | 585.43      | 491.06     | 34.9                 | 42.3        | 37.6 | 13.63                   | 13.84       | 13.06   |
| Seafood Processing          | 253.46                  | 368.84      | 311.83     | 28.1                 | 44.6        | 36.6 | 9.02                    | 8.27        | 8.52    |
| Lumber & Paper Prod.        | 670.07                  | 703.08      | 550.10     | 44.2                 | 40.5        | 36.6 | 15.16                   | 17.36       | 15.03   |
| Trans., Comm. & Utilities   | 567.01                  | 555.97      | 584.97     | 36.3                 | 35.3        | 37.0 | 15.62                   | 15.75       | 15.81   |
| Trade                       | 380.46                  | 370.61      | 361.45     | 34.0                 | 33.6        | 33.1 | 11.19                   | 11.03       | 10.92   |
| Wholesale                   | 549.02                  | 519.23      | 541.33     | 38.8                 | 37.9        | 39.6 | 14.15                   | 13.70       | 13.67   |
| Retail                      | 324.00                  | 324.29      | 299.07     | 32.4                 | 32.3        | 30.8 | 10.00                   | 10.04       | 9.71    |
| Finance, Ins. & Real Estate | 382.50                  | 404.08      | 397.86     | 34.9                 | 34.1        | 34.9 | 10.96                   | 11.85       | 11.40   |

Benchmark: March 1988.

<sup>1/</sup> Prepared in cooperation with the Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor.<sup>2/</sup> Excludes eating and drinking establishments.

AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS SERIES: Averages are based on data for full- and part-time production workers (manufacturing) and nonsupervisory workers (nonmanufacturing) and are for gross earnings and hours paid, including overtime pay and hours.

Source: Alaska Department of Labor, Research &amp; Analysis

**Cold Weather Pushed  
Alaska's Unemployment Higher**

The unusually cold weather that gripped the state in January helped push Alaska's unemployment rate back into double digits after the state had enjoyed seven months of single-digit unemployment. It's worthy to remember, though, that January's higher unemployment rate still registered below last year's rate of 11.1%. This is one more indication that the state's labor picture is continuing to improve. It's also worthy to remember, though, that the seasonal loss of jobs is a telling sign; that is, a sizeable share of the Alaska labor force still finds work only during part of the year.

**Summary:  
1989 Start Solid, But Oil Revenue  
Shortfall Could Halt Recovery**

In summary, the state's economy got off to a good start in 1989. With a few exceptions, all industries and most of the regions are performing relatively well. Some are performing exceptionally well. The most acute cloud on the horizon is the current oil revenue shortfall. It could derail the recent positive economic developments.

Table 4

## Labor Force By Region and Census Area

|                              | Labor Force |             |         | Unemployment |             |        | Rate       |             |      | Employment |             |         |
|------------------------------|-------------|-------------|---------|--------------|-------------|--------|------------|-------------|------|------------|-------------|---------|
|                              | P/<br>1/89  | R/<br>12/88 | 1/88    | P/<br>1/89   | R/<br>12/88 | 1/88   | P/<br>1/89 | R/<br>12/88 | 1/88 | P/<br>1/89 | R/<br>12/88 | 1/88    |
| Alaska Statewide             | 235,294     | 239,120     | 240,732 | 24,398       | 20,671      | 26,695 | 10.4       | 8.6         | 11.1 | 210,896    | 218,449     | 214,037 |
| Anch.-MatSu Region           | 124,359     | 126,943     | 128,718 | 10,727       | 9,377       | 12,138 | 8.6        | 7.4         | 9.4  | 113,632    | 117,566     | 116,580 |
| Anchorage Borough            | 110,734     | 112,282     | 114,143 | 8,258        | 7,235       | 9,366  | 7.5        | 6.4         | 8.2  | 102,476    | 105,047     | 104,777 |
| MatSu Borough                | 13,625      | 14,661      | 14,575  | 2,469        | 2,142       | 2,772  | 18.1       | 14.6        | 19.0 | 11,156     | 12,519      | 11,803  |
| Gulf Coast Region            | 24,746      | 24,508      | 24,421  | 3,854        | 2,971       | 3,759  | 15.6       | 12.1        | 15.4 | 20,892     | 21,537      | 20,662  |
| Kenai Peninsula Borough      | 15,709      | 15,406      | 15,683  | 2,866        | 2,167       | 2,981  | 18.2       | 14.1        | 19.0 | 12,843     | 13,239      | 12,702  |
| Kodiak Island Borough        | 5,251       | 5,318       | 5,089   | 434          | 353         | 325    | 8.3        | 6.6         | 6.4  | 4,817      | 4,965       | 4,764   |
| Valdez-Cordova               | 3,786       | 3,784       | 3,649   | 554          | 451         | 453    | 14.6       | 11.9        | 12.4 | 3,232      | 3,333       | 3,196   |
| Interior Region              | 34,248      | 34,903      | 35,741  | 4,707        | 4,246       | 5,253  | 13.7       | 12.2        | 14.7 | 29,541     | 30,657      | 30,488  |
| Fairbanks North Star Borough | 29,506      | 30,077      | 30,734  | 3,922        | 3,527       | 4,331  | 13.3       | 11.7        | 14.1 | 25,584     | 26,550      | 26,403  |
| Southeast Fairbanks          | 2,008       | 1,990       | 2,103   | 344          | 263         | 385    | 17.1       | 13.2        | 18.3 | 1,664      | 1,727       | 1,718   |
| Yukon-Koyukuk                | 2,734       | 2,836       | 2,904   | 441          | 456         | 537    | 16.1       | 16.1        | 18.5 | 2,293      | 2,380       | 2,367   |
| Northern Region              | 8,023       | 7,998       | 8,090   | 728          | 687         | 798    | 9.1        | 8.6         | 9.9  | 7,295      | 7,311       | 7,292   |
| Nome                         | 3,051       | 3,041       | 3,098   | 331          | 315         | 380    | 10.8       | 10.4        | 12.3 | 2,720      | 2,726       | 2,718   |
| North Slope Borough          | 2,874       | 2,882       | 2,856   | 152          | 154         | 135    | 5.3        | 5.3         | 4.7  | 2,722      | 2,728       | 2,721   |
| Northwest Arctic Borough     | 2,098       | 2,075       | 2,136   | 245          | 218         | 283    | 11.7       | 10.5        | 13.2 | 1,853      | 1,857       | 1,853   |
| Southeast Region             | 32,660      | 33,726      | 32,536  | 3,748        | 2,849       | 3,945  | 11.5       | 8.4         | 12.1 | 28,912     | 30,877      | 28,591  |
| Haines Borough               | 823         | 847         | 859     | 115          | 90          | 158    | 14.0       | 10.6        | 18.4 | 708        | 757         | 701     |
| Juneau Borough               | 14,202      | 14,940      | 14,048  | 991          | 831         | 984    | 7.0        | 5.6         | 7.0  | 13,211     | 14,109      | 13,064  |
| Ketchikan Gateway Borough    | 6,207       | 6,349       | 6,019   | 913          | 695         | 784    | 14.7       | 10.9        | 13.0 | 5,294      | 5,654       | 5,235   |
| Pr. of Wales-Outer Ketchikan | 2,734       | 2,611       | 2,700   | 594          | 326         | 584    | 21.7       | 12.5        | 21.6 | 2,140      | 2,285       | 2,116   |
| Sitka Borough                | 3,754       | 3,999       | 3,768   | 298          | 308         | 350    | 7.9        | 7.7         | 9.3  | 3,456      | 3,691       | 3,418   |
| Skagway-Yakutat-Angoon       | 1,703       | 1,639       | 1,783   | 421          | 270         | 515    | 24.7       | 16.5        | 28.9 | 1,282      | 1,369       | 1,268   |
| Wrangell-Petersburg          | 3,237       | 3,341       | 3,359   | 416          | 329         | 570    | 12.9       | 9.8         | 17.0 | 2,821      | 3,012       | 2,789   |
| Southwest Region             | 11,258      | 11,042      | 11,226  | 634          | 541         | 802    | 5.6        | 4.9         | 7.1  | 10,624     | 10,501      | 10,424  |
| Aleutian Islands             | 3,107       | 3,058       | 3,075   | 61           | 48          | 87     | 2.0        | 1.6         | 2.8  | 3,046      | 3,010       | 2,988   |
| Bethel                       | 4,233       | 4,194       | 4,250   | 235          | 242         | 327    | 5.6        | 5.8         | 7.7  | 3,998      | 3,952       | 3,923   |
| Bristol Bay Borough          | 446         | 447         | 432     | 52           | 57          | 45     | 11.7       | 12.8        | 10.4 | 394        | 390         | 387     |
| Dillingham                   | 2,052       | 1,981       | 2,019   | 153          | 104         | 156    | 7.5        | 5.2         | 7.7  | 1,899      | 1,877       | 1,863   |
| Wade Hampton                 | 1,420       | 1,362       | 1,450   | 133          | 90          | 187    | 9.4        | 6.6         | 12.9 | 1,287      | 1,272       | 1,263   |

P/ = Preliminary      R/ = Revised      Benchmark 1988

## Notes:

- Federal guidelines require the use of unrounded labor force data, adjusted to be consistent with the Current Population Survey in formulas used to allocate federal funds.
- Comparisons between different time periods are not as meaningful as other time series published by the Alaska Department of Labor because Alaska's Current Population Survey sample size is inadequate to accurately indicate monthly changes in level. Sampling errors are random in nature, meaning that the unemployment rates in any given month are as likely to be high as frequently as they are low.
- The official definitions of unemployment currently in place exclude anyone who has made no attempt to find work in the four-week period up to and including the week that includes the 12th of each month. Most Alaska economists believe that Alaska's rural localities have proportionately more of these discouraged workers.

Source: Alaska Department of Labor, Research &amp; Analysis

# On the Annual Benchmark Revision:

By John Boucher

Past 18 Months of  
Employment Data  
Revised.

In January of every year, nonagricultural wage and salary employment estimates are revised for the preceding 18 months by a procedure referred to as 'benchmarking'. The revision of employment estimates for the last half of 1987 and all of 1988 has been completed and are published in this issue of Trends. (See Tables 1 through 18.)

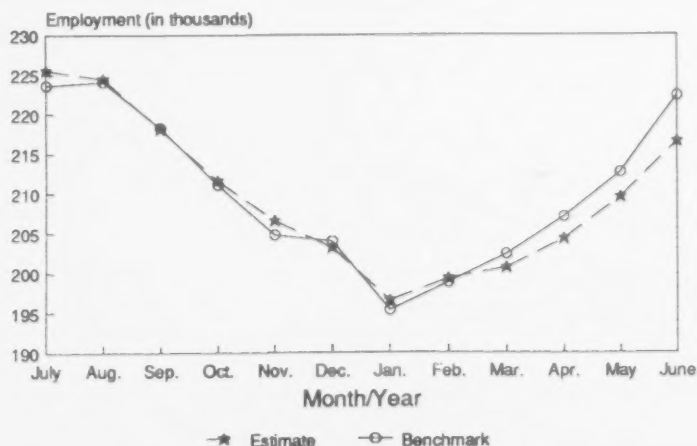
## Monthly Job Estimates Based on Employer Sampling

The monthly employment estimates published in this magazine are based on a sample of employers. Current monthly employment is estimated via this sample of approximately 1,200 firms. The firms voluntarily participate in the Department of Labor's Current Employment Statistics (CES) program. The firms' data allow DOL economists to produce reliable and timely estimates on both the direction and the magnitude of movement of nonagricultural wage and salary employment.

## Revised Employment Estimates Incorporate Latest UI Tax Data

The most comprehensive count of nonagricultural wage and salary employment is based on Unemployment Insurance (UI) tax reports (commonly referred to as the Quarterly Report of Employment and Wages, or the ES-202 report). However, ES-202 data are not incorporated into the current employment estimates because there is a six-to-nine month lag in the collection and publication of this information. The January 1989 benchmark process, though, does incorporate the most recent ES-202 data available.

**Figure 1**  
**Comparison of Original Estimates**  
**and Benchmark: July '87 - June '88**



Source: Alaska Department of Labor, Research & Analysis

Revised estimates for the benchmark were calculated through December 1988. These estimates incorporate ES-202 data through June 1988. The remaining six months of 1988 were re-estimated using an augmented CES sample. The new sample incorporates additional information unavailable at the time the original estimate was generated.

Table 1

## Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment By Place of Work Alaska 1988

|                             | Jan.    | Feb.    | March   | April   | May     | June    | July    | Aug.    | Sept.   | Oct.    | Nov.    | Dec.    | Average |
|-----------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Nonag. Wage & Salary        | 195,200 | 198,900 | 202,300 | 207,300 | 212,800 | 221,900 | 227,900 | 226,700 | 224,200 | 214,800 | 209,000 | 207,100 | 212,300 |
| Mining                      | 8,100   | 8,600   | 9,100   | 9,400   | 9,500   | 10,400  | 10,100  | 10,300  | 9,900   | 9,700   | 9,500   | 9,300   | 9,500   |
| Construction                | 6,800   | 6,800   | 7,000   | 7,800   | 8,900   | 9,900   | 10,600  | 11,000  | 11,100  | 9,900   | 7,900   | 6,700   | 8,700   |
| Manufacturing               | 9,500   | 10,400  | 11,900  | 12,900  | 14,300  | 18,100  | 24,400  | 22,200  | 17,500  | 13,600  | 11,900  | 10,900  | 14,800  |
| Seafood Processing          | 4,300   | 4,800   | 5,700   | 6,100   | 7,200   | 10,500  | 16,700  | 14,300  | 9,700   | 6,000   | 4,600   | 4,200   | 7,800   |
| Lumber & Paper Products     | 2,100   | 2,500   | 3,100   | 3,500   | 3,700   | 4,000   | 4,100   | 4,300   | 4,300   | 4,200   | 4,000   | 3,400   | 3,600   |
| All Other Manufacturing     | 3,100   | 3,100   | 3,100   | 3,300   | 3,400   | 3,600   | 3,600   | 3,600   | 3,500   | 3,400   | 3,300   | 3,300   | 3,400   |
| Transportation              | 16,100  | 16,300  | 16,500  | 16,300  | 17,200  | 18,300  | 18,200  | 18,300  | 18,200  | 17,300  | 16,700  | 16,800  | 17,200  |
| Trucking & Warehousing      | 2,100   | 2,200   | 2,300   | 2,000   | 2,100   | 2,300   | 2,300   | 2,300   | 2,300   | 2,200   | 2,100   | 2,200   | 2,200   |
| Water Transportation        | 800     | 800     | 900     | 900     | 1,100   | 1,100   | 1,200   | 1,300   | 1,200   | 1,100   | 1,000   | 1,000   | 1,000   |
| Air Transportation          | 5,100   | 5,100   | 5,100   | 5,200   | 5,400   | 5,800   | 5,800   | 5,800   | 5,600   | 5,400   | 5,300   | 5,300   | 5,400   |
| Communications              | 3,300   | 3,300   | 3,300   | 3,200   | 3,300   | 3,300   | 3,300   | 3,300   | 3,300   | 3,200   | 3,200   | 3,200   | 3,300   |
| All Other Transportation    | 4,800   | 4,900   | 4,900   | 5,000   | 5,300   | 5,800   | 5,600   | 5,600   | 5,800   | 5,400   | 5,100   | 5,100   | 5,300   |
| Trade                       | 38,800  | 38,500  | 39,100  | 40,600  | 42,400  | 44,300  | 44,600  | 44,700  | 43,900  | 42,300  | 41,900  | 42,400  | 42,000  |
| Wholesale                   | 7,000   | 7,000   | 7,000   | 7,200   | 7,500   | 7,800   | 8,000   | 8,000   | 7,800   | 7,600   | 7,500   | 7,400   | 7,500   |
| Retail                      | 31,800  | 31,500  | 32,100  | 33,400  | 34,900  | 36,500  | 36,600  | 36,700  | 36,100  | 34,700  | 34,400  | 35,000  | 34,500  |
| Gen. Merch. & Apparel       | 4,700   | 4,500   | 4,600   | 4,600   | 4,700   | 5,000   | 5,200   | 5,200   | 5,100   | 5,100   | 5,300   | 5,600   | 5,000   |
| Food Stores                 | 5,800   | 5,700   | 5,900   | 5,900   | 6,100   | 6,400   | 6,200   | 6,200   | 6,200   | 6,000   | 6,000   | 6,100   | 6,000   |
| Eating & Drinking Places    | 11,400  | 11,500  | 11,700  | 12,500  | 13,200  | 13,900  | 13,900  | 14,000  | 13,700  | 12,600  | 12,200  | 12,200  | 12,700  |
| All Other Retail            | 9,900   | 9,800   | 9,900   | 10,400  | 10,900  | 11,200  | 11,300  | 11,300  | 11,100  | 11,000  | 10,900  | 11,100  | 10,700  |
| Finance, Ins. & Real Estate | 10,800  | 10,800  | 10,800  | 10,700  | 10,600  | 10,800  | 10,800  | 10,900  | 10,700  | 10,600  | 10,500  | 10,400  | 10,700  |
| Services                    | 40,200  | 40,800  | 41,100  | 42,000  | 43,200  | 45,100  | 45,600  | 45,500  | 44,300  | 42,700  | 42,200  | 42,400  | 42,900  |
| Hotels & Other Lodging      | 3,900   | 3,700   | 3,900   | 4,100   | 4,600   | 5,700   | 6,000   | 6,000   | 5,400   | 4,300   | 4,000   | 4,000   | 4,600   |
| Government*                 | 64,900  | 66,700  | 66,800  | 67,600  | 66,700  | 65,000  | 63,600  | 63,800  | 68,600  | 68,700  | 68,400  | 68,200  | 66,600  |
| Federal                     | 17,700  | 17,700  | 17,500  | 17,600  | 17,800  | 18,300  | 18,500  | 18,500  | 18,400  | 17,800  | 17,800  | 18,000  | 18,000  |
| State                       | 18,000  | 19,200  | 19,500  | 19,900  | 18,700  | 18,500  | 18,500  | 18,600  | 20,600  | 20,400  | 20,400  | 20,000  | 19,400  |
| Local                       | 29,200  | 29,800  | 29,800  | 30,100  | 30,200  | 28,200  | 26,600  | 26,700  | 29,600  | 30,500  | 30,200  | 30,200  | 29,300  |

Annual averages may not add due to rounding.

Prepared in cooperation with the Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor.

\* Government includes teachers in primary and secondary schools, and personnel employed by the University of Alaska.

Benchmark: March 1988.

Source: Alaska Department of Labor, Research & Analysis

### Two New Series Produced: 'Communications', and 'Hotels, Motels & Other Lodging Places'

The 1988 benchmark brings several changes in the reported data. Beginning with these numbers, published for the first time in this issue, two new categories of industry employment are reported, and one category is redefined. The two new categories of employment are: 1)'Communications', and 2)'Hotels, Motels & Other Lodging Places'. The redefined employment series is: 'All Other Transportation'.

The reason for collecting and publishing information on the two new industry employment categories is due to changes that have occurred in Alaska's economy over the past decade. The

'Hotels, Motels & Other Lodging Places' series is a first step toward breaking out current information on Alaska's services industries. This industry category is of particular interest to economists and students of the Alaska economy because of its traditional ties to Alaska's growing tourism industry.

Future benchmark revisions will introduce more published series within the services industries. Alaska's economy, like other states in the Lower '48, has become increasingly service oriented. Trends within the greater category of services employment can easily mask changes at the more detailed level. As employer sampling systems are developed, refined and tested, more employment category series encompassed by the services

Table 2

# Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment By Place of Work Alaska 1987

|                             | Jan.    | Feb.    | March   | April   | May     | June    | July    | Aug.    | Sept.   | Oct.    | Nov.    | Dec.    | Average |
|-----------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Nonag. Wage & Salary        | 196,700 | 199,300 | 200,900 | 205,600 | 212,700 | 219,100 | 224,100 | 224,300 | 218,400 | 210,900 | 204,800 | 204,100 | 210,100 |
| Mining                      | 7,900   | 7,900   | 7,900   | 8,300   | 8,500   | 9,000   | 9,400   | 9,800   | 9,800   | 9,300   | 8,900   | 8,600   | 8,800   |
| Construction                | 8,800   | 8,700   | 8,800   | 9,200   | 10,500  | 11,900  | 12,000  | 12,600  | 11,500  | 10,600  | 8,700   | 7,700   | 10,100  |
| Manufacturing               | 8,400   | 9,600   | 10,200  | 11,700  | 13,600  | 15,400  | 20,900  | 19,000  | 13,800  | 11,900  | 10,300  | 9,900   | 12,900  |
| Seafood Processing          | 3,500   | 4,100   | 4,500   | 5,700   | 7,200   | 8,700   | 14,000  | 12,100  | 6,900   | 5,300   | 4,000   | 3,800   | 6,700   |
| Lumber & Paper Products     | 1,800   | 2,300   | 2,500   | 2,900   | 3,100   | 3,300   | 3,600   | 3,600   | 3,700   | 3,500   | 3,300   | 3,100   | 3,100   |
| All Other Manufacturing     | 3,100   | 3,200   | 3,200   | 3,100   | 3,300   | 3,400   | 3,300   | 3,300   | 3,200   | 3,100   | 3,000   | 3,000   | 3,200   |
| Transportation              | 16,400  | 16,400  | 16,800  | 16,600  | 17,700  | 19,100  | 19,000  | 19,000  | 18,700  | 17,500  | 17,000  | 17,100  | 17,600  |
| Trucking & Warehousing      | 2,100   | 2,000   | 2,200   | 2,200   | 2,400   | 2,600   | 2,700   | 2,700   | 2,400   | 2,400   | 2,400   | 2,600   | 2,400   |
| Water Transportation        | 700     | 800     | 1,000   | 900     | 1,100   | 1,200   | 1,200   | 1,300   | 1,200   | 1,100   | 1,000   | 1,000   | 1,000   |
| Air Transportation          | 4,900   | 4,900   | 4,900   | 5,000   | 5,300   | 5,700   | 5,800   | 5,800   | 5,600   | 5,400   | 5,200   | 5,200   | 5,300   |
| Communications              | 3,900   | 3,900   | 3,900   | 3,700   | 3,700   | 3,700   | 3,700   | 3,600   | 3,500   | 3,400   | 3,400   | 3,300   | 3,600   |
| All Other Transportation    | 4,800   | 4,800   | 4,800   | 4,800   | 5,200   | 5,900   | 5,700   | 5,600   | 5,700   | 5,200   | 5,000   | 5,000   | 5,200   |
| Trade                       | 38,700  | 38,400  | 38,400  | 39,200  | 41,300  | 43,400  | 43,800  | 44,200  | 43,400  | 40,900  | 40,800  | 41,000  | 41,100  |
| Wholesale                   | 7,200   | 7,200   | 7,200   | 7,200   | 7,400   | 7,600   | 7,900   | 7,800   | 7,500   | 7,300   | 7,300   | 7,200   | 7,400   |
| Retail                      | 31,500  | 31,200  | 31,200  | 32,000  | 33,900  | 35,800  | 35,900  | 36,400  | 35,900  | 33,600  | 33,500  | 33,800  | 33,700  |
| Gen. Merch. & Apparel       | 4,600   | 4,400   | 4,400   | 4,400   | 4,700   | 5,100   | 5,000   | 5,200   | 5,100   | 4,900   | 5,200   | 5,500   | 4,900   |
| Food Stores                 | 5,500   | 5,500   | 5,600   | 5,600   | 5,900   | 6,000   | 6,200   | 6,200   | 6,200   | 5,900   | 5,800   | 5,900   | 5,900   |
| Eating & Drinking Places    | 11,400  | 11,400  | 11,400  | 11,800  | 12,600  | 13,700  | 13,500  | 13,800  | 13,600  | 12,300  | 12,000  | 11,800  | 12,400  |
| All Other Retail            | 10,000  | 9,900   | 9,800   | 10,200  | 10,700  | 11,000  | 11,200  | 11,200  | 11,000  | 10,500  | 10,500  | 10,600  | 10,600  |
| Finance, Ins. & Real Estate | 11,500  | 11,400  | 11,300  | 11,400  | 11,300  | 11,400  | 11,500  | 11,600  | 11,300  | 11,100  | 11,000  | 11,100  | 11,300  |
| Services                    | 40,000  | 40,300  | 40,900  | 41,700  | 42,600  | 44,300  | 44,700  | 45,000  | 43,900  | 42,400  | 41,700  | 42,100  | 42,500  |
| Hotels & Other Lodging      | 3,700   | 3,700   | 3,900   | 4,300   | 4,600   | 5,700   | 6,000   | 6,100   | 5,400   | 4,300   | 4,000   | 3,900   | 4,600   |
| Government*                 | 65,000  | 66,600  | 66,600  | 67,500  | 67,200  | 64,600  | 62,800  | 63,100  | 66,000  | 67,200  | 66,400  | 66,600  | 65,800  |
| Federal                     | 17,000  | 17,000  | 17,100  | 17,600  | 18,000  | 18,400  | 18,500  | 18,500  | 18,400  | 18,000  | 17,900  | 18,100  | 17,900  |
| State                       | 18,100  | 19,200  | 19,300  | 19,500  | 18,400  | 18,200  | 17,800  | 18,200  | 18,900  | 19,400  | 19,100  | 18,700  | 18,700  |
| Local                       | 29,900  | 30,400  | 30,200  | 30,400  | 30,800  | 28,000  | 26,500  | 26,400  | 28,700  | 29,800  | 29,400  | 29,800  | 29,200  |

Annual averages may not add due to rounding.

Prepared in cooperation with the Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor.

\* Government includes teachers in primary and secondary schools, and personnel employed by the University of Alaska.

Benchmark: March 1988.

Source: Alaska Department of Labor, Research & Analysis

sector will be made available and published.

The other new industry employment series to be introduced with the 1988 benchmark is 'Communications'. This industry category includes radio and television broadcasters and workers employed by private telephone and telegraph utilities, cable television utilities, and satellite communications and tracking industries. Alaska's large geographic area and the advancement of communications technology has made this industry a critical performer in Alaska's economy.

## 'All Other Transportation' Series Redefined

The introduction of the 'Communications' series has necessitated a redefinition of the 'All Other Transportation' series. Prior to the 1988 benchmark, the 'All Other Transportation' series included 'Communications'; future references to 'All Other Transportation' will not include the communications industry. This results in a break in series beginning January 1987. Estimates for 'All Other Transportation' prior to January 1987 will not be comparable to data after that date.

Table 3

### Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment By Place of Work Anchorage Borough 1988

|                             | Jan.   | Feb.   | March  | April  | May     | June    | July    | Aug.    | Sept.   | Oct.    | Nov.    | Dec.    | Average |
|-----------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Nonag. Wage & Salary        | 96,300 | 97,300 | 98,200 | 98,850 | 100,400 | 102,650 | 103,550 | 103,650 | 103,950 | 102,000 | 100,150 | 100,300 | 100,600 |
| Mining                      | 3,100  | 3,200  | 3,300  | 3,250  | 3,300   | 3,450   | 3,500   | 3,600   | 3,600   | 3,500   | 3,500   | 3,500   | 3,400   |
| Construction                | 3,700  | 3,550  | 3,550  | 3,850  | 4,300   | 4,750   | 5,100   | 5,150   | 4,950   | 4,500   | 3,550   | 3,250   | 4,200   |
| Manufacturing               | 2,100  | 2,150  | 2,250  | 2,550  | 2,700   | 3,300   | 3,300   | 3,200   | 2,600   | 2,350   | 2,050   | 1,950   | 2,550   |
| Transportation              | 8,800  | 8,950  | 9,150  | 8,850  | 9,200   | 9,500   | 9,600   | 9,550   | 9,500   | 9,150   | 9,050   | 9,000   | 9,200   |
| Trucking & Warehousing      | 1,350  | 1,450  | 1,550  | 1,200  | 1,250   | 1,300   | 1,400   | 1,450   | 1,450   | 1,400   | 1,450   | 1,500   | 1,400   |
| Water Transportation        | 250    | 250    | 300    | 300    | 350     | 300     | 350     | 300     | 350     | 300     | 350     | 300     | 300     |
| Air Transportation          | 3,150  | 3,150  | 3,200  | 3,250  | 3,350   | 3,550   | 3,600   | 3,600   | 3,450   | 3,350   | 3,250   | 3,200   | 3,350   |
| Communications              | 1,800  | 1,800  | 1,800  | 1,800  | 1,800   | 1,800   | 1,800   | 1,800   | 1,800   | 1,750   | 1,750   | 1,750   | 1,800   |
| All Other Transportation    | 2,250  | 2,300  | 2,300  | 2,300  | 2,450   | 2,550   | 2,450   | 2,400   | 2,450   | 2,350   | 2,250   | 2,250   | 2,350   |
| Trade                       | 22,900 | 22,700 | 23,050 | 23,400 | 24,000  | 24,800  | 24,700  | 24,850  | 24,850  | 24,550  | 24,550  | 24,750  | 24,100  |
| Wholesale                   | 5,350  | 5,300  | 5,350  | 5,400  | 5,600   | 5,700   | 5,800   | 5,750   | 5,750   | 5,750   | 5,800   | 5,800   | 5,600   |
| Retail                      | 17,550 | 17,400 | 17,700 | 18,000 | 18,400  | 19,100  | 18,900  | 19,100  | 19,100  | 18,800  | 18,750  | 18,950  | 18,500  |
| Gen. Merch. & Apparel       | 2,400  | 2,300  | 2,300  | 2,300  | 2,350   | 2,500   | 2,650   | 2,700   | 2,650   | 2,600   | 2,700   | 2,800   | 2,500   |
| Food Stores                 | 2,800  | 2,750  | 2,900  | 2,750  | 2,750   | 3,000   | 2,650   | 2,700   | 2,850   | 2,800   | 2,800   | 2,800   | 2,800   |
| Eating & Drinking Places    | 7,050  | 7,100  | 7,200  | 7,400  | 7,600   | 7,750   | 7,750   | 7,800   | 7,750   | 7,550   | 7,450   | 7,500   | 7,500   |
| All Other Retail            | 5,300  | 5,250  | 5,300  | 5,550  | 5,700   | 5,850   | 5,850   | 5,900   | 5,850   | 5,850   | 5,800   | 5,850   | 5,650   |
| Finance, Ins. & Real Estate | 7,200  | 7,300  | 7,350  | 7,150  | 7,150   | 7,200   | 7,150   | 7,050   | 7,100   | 7,150   | 7,150   | 7,150   | 7,200   |
| Services                    | 23,150 | 23,550 | 23,700 | 24,000 | 24,350  | 24,950  | 25,200  | 25,250  | 25,250  | 24,700  | 24,200  | 24,450  | 24,400  |
| Government*                 | 25,350 | 25,900 | 25,850 | 25,800 | 25,400  | 24,700  | 25,000  | 25,000  | 26,100  | 26,100  | 26,100  | 26,250  | 25,650  |
| Federal                     | 10,450 | 10,350 | 10,250 | 10,200 | 10,200  | 10,350  | 10,450  | 10,350  | 10,350  | 10,200  | 10,300  | 10,400  | 10,300  |
| State                       | 6,300  | 6,900  | 6,950  | 7,050  | 6,500   | 6,450   | 6,400   | 6,450   | 7,250   | 7,350   | 7,350   | 7,300   | 6,850   |
| Local                       | 8,600  | 8,650  | 8,650  | 8,550  | 8,700   | 7,900   | 8,150   | 8,200   | 8,500   | 8,550   | 8,450   | 8,550   | 8,450   |

Annual averages may not add due to rounding.

\* Government includes teachers in primary and secondary schools, and personnel employed by the University of Alaska.

Benchmark: March 1988.

Source: Alaska Department of Labor, Research & Analysis

#### Estimates Tracked Well Until March

During the last half of 1987 and until March 1988, the original estimates tracked accurately the benchmarked employment numbers. (See Figure 1.) In general, sample-based estimates tend to lag behind an economic turnaround. In part, this is due to the sample's inability to account for the entrance of any new firms.

Employment increased 1.1% from 1987 to 1988 on an average annual basis.

This was the first employment gain in the last two years. Employment fell 4.3% and 4.8% the prior two years. By late 1987 employment losses were moderating. And during four of the first six months of 1988, employment levels climbed above the level reached the previous year. (For additional insight into the past year's employment levels, other articles elsewhere in this issue analyze levels statewide and regionally.)

Table 4

### Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment By Place of Work Anchorage Borough 1987

|                             | Jan.   | Feb.   | March  | April   | May     | June    | July    | Aug.    | Sept.   | Oct.    | Nov.   | Dec.    | Average |
|-----------------------------|--------|--------|--------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|--------|---------|---------|
| Nonag. Wage & Salary        | 98,250 | 98,550 | 99,050 | 100,250 | 101,750 | 103,300 | 103,950 | 104,500 | 103,350 | 101,200 | 99,650 | 100,250 | 101,150 |
| Mining                      | 3,050  | 3,050  | 3,150  | 3,150   | 3,100   | 3,100   | 3,150   | 3,200   | 3,200   | 3,200   | 3,150  | 3,150   | 3,150   |
| Construction                | 4,650  | 4,650  | 4,700  | 4,850   | 5,450   | 6,200   | 6,300   | 6,600   | 6,100   | 5,650   | 4,600  | 4,150   | 5,350   |
| Manufacturing               | 2,000  | 2,050  | 2,100  | 2,200   | 2,400   | 2,650   | 3,150   | 3,100   | 2,500   | 2,150   | 1,900  | 1,800   | 2,350   |
| Transportation              | 8,800  | 8,750  | 9,050  | 9,050   | 9,600   | 10,200  | 10,050  | 9,900   | 9,700   | 9,250   | 9,150  | 9,400   | 9,400   |
| Trucking & Warehousing      | 1,300  | 1,250  | 1,500  | 1,450   | 1,650   | 1,700   | 1,700   | 1,750   | 1,800   | 1,600   | 1,650  | 1,800   | 1,600   |
| Water Transportation        | 200    | 250    | 250    | 300     | 350     | 350     | 350     | 350     | 300     | 300     | 250    | 300     | 300     |
| Air Transportation          | 3,050  | 3,000  | 3,050  | 3,100   | 3,200   | 3,400   | 3,500   | 3,450   | 3,350   | 3,200   | 3,100  | 3,100   | 3,200   |
| Communications              | 1,900  | 1,900  | 1,900  | 1,900   | 1,900   | 1,950   | 1,900   | 1,850   | 1,800   | 1,800   | 1,850  | 1,850   | 1,900   |
| All Other Transportation    | 2,350  | 2,350  | 2,350  | 2,300   | 2,500   | 2,800   | 2,600   | 2,500   | 2,450   | 2,350   | 2,300  | 2,350   | 2,450   |
| Trade                       | 22,800 | 22,550 | 22,450 | 22,600  | 22,950  | 23,600  | 24,100  | 24,400  | 24,300  | 23,550  | 23,650 | 23,800  | 23,400  |
| Wholesale                   | 5,550  | 5,500  | 5,500  | 5,450   | 5,450   | 5,600   | 5,700   | 5,700   | 5,650   | 5,600   | 5,600  | 5,550   | 5,550   |
| Retail                      | 17,250 | 17,050 | 16,950 | 17,150  | 17,500  | 18,000  | 18,400  | 18,700  | 18,650  | 17,950  | 18,050 | 18,250  | 17,850  |
| Gen. Merch. & Apparel       | 2,300  | 2,250  | 2,150  | 2,200   | 2,300   | 2,450   | 2,450   | 2,550   | 2,600   | 2,450   | 2,700  | 2,800   | 2,450   |
| Food Stores                 | 2,800  | 2,750  | 2,850  | 2,750   | 2,750   | 2,850   | 2,950   | 2,950   | 3,000   | 2,800   | 2,750  | 2,850   | 2,850   |
| Eating & Drinking Places    | 6,750  | 6,750  | 6,700  | 6,700   | 6,850   | 7,050   | 7,150   | 7,300   | 7,250   | 7,100   | 6,950  | 6,950   | 6,950   |
| All Other Retail            | 5,400  | 5,300  | 5,250  | 5,500   | 5,600   | 5,650   | 5,850   | 5,900   | 5,800   | 5,600   | 5,650  | 5,650   | 5,600   |
| Finance, Ins. & Real Estate | 7,700  | 7,650  | 7,600  | 7,600   | 7,550   | 7,600   | 7,600   | 7,650   | 7,500   | 7,550   | 7,500  | 7,600   | 7,600   |
| Services                    | 23,300 | 23,450 | 23,600 | 24,050  | 24,250  | 24,650  | 24,600  | 24,700  | 24,550  | 24,050  | 23,850 | 24,200  | 24,100  |
| Government*                 | 25,950 | 26,400 | 26,400 | 26,750  | 26,450  | 25,300  | 25,000  | 24,950  | 25,500  | 25,800  | 25,850 | 26,150  | 25,900  |
| Federal                     | 10,050 | 10,050 | 10,100 | 10,200  | 10,300  | 10,450  | 10,450  | 10,450  | 10,450  | 10,450  | 10,450 | 10,500  | 10,350  |
| State                       | 6,450  | 6,900  | 6,950  | 7,000   | 6,550   | 6,450   | 6,250   | 6,350   | 6,650   | 6,850   | 6,850  | 6,900   | 6,700   |
| Local                       | 9,450  | 9,450  | 9,350  | 9,550   | 9,600   | 8,400   | 8,300   | 8,150   | 8,400   | 8,500   | 8,550  | 8,750   | 8,850   |

Annual averages may not add due to rounding.

\* Government includes teachers in primary and secondary schools, and personnel employed by the University of Alaska.

Benchmark: March 1988.

Source: Alaska Department of Labor, Research & Analysis

### Hours and Earnings Statistics Pointed to Recovery in 1988

Employers also provide the data used to estimate hours and earnings statistics. These estimates are adjusted to reflect the level of employment. When the employment data are benchmarked, the hours and earnings data are reviewed to see if additional employment level changes might further change the hours and earnings estimates. (See Table 19.) Usually, the hours and earnings estimates have changed. The cause of the change is primarily a result of new firms being added to the sample; the change is also due to changes in the benchmarked

estimates of employment. (It's worthy to note that the quarterly ES-202 data don't lend themselves to be used as estimates for the average weekly hours and earnings data.)

The past year's average weekly hours data indicate that Alaska's economy was on the rebound during 1988. A trend toward shorter work weeks reversed itself in most industries. Average weekly hours increased slightly in mining and construction, and held steady in most other industries. One notable exception was the average hours worked in the seafood processing industry. The decrease was probably due to the lower volume of salmon processed in Alaska during the peak season in 1988.

Table 5

**Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment  
By Place of Work  
Anchorage-MatSu Region 1988**

|                             | Jan.    | Feb.    | March   | April   | May     | June    | July    | Aug.    | Sept.   | Oct.    | Nov.    | Dec.    | Average |
|-----------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Nonag. Wage & Salary        | 102,300 | 103,300 | 104,300 | 105,100 | 106,850 | 109,150 | 109,900 | 110,150 | 110,600 | 108,500 | 106,600 | 106,600 | 106,950 |
| Mining                      | 3,100   | 3,200   | 3,300   | 3,250   | 3,300   | 3,450   | 3,500   | 3,600   | 3,600   | 3,550   | 3,500   | 3,500   | 3,400   |
| Construction                | 3,850   | 3,700   | 3,700   | 4,000   | 4,500   | 4,950   | 5,300   | 5,500   | 5,300   | 4,850   | 3,800   | 3,500   | 4,400   |
| Manufacturing               | 2,150   | 2,200   | 2,350   | 2,600   | 2,800   | 3,450   | 3,450   | 3,300   | 2,700   | 2,450   | 2,200   | 2,050   | 2,650   |
| Transportation              | 9,500   | 9,550   | 9,800   | 9,450   | 9,800   | 10,050  | 10,150  | 10,050  | 10,200  | 9,900   | 9,750   | 9,600   | 9,800   |
| Trade                       | 24,300  | 24,100  | 24,450  | 24,900  | 25,550  | 26,400  | 26,400  | 26,500  | 26,450  | 26,100  | 26,100  | 26,300  | 25,650  |
| Finance, Ins. & Real Estate | 7,600   | 7,700   | 7,750   | 7,550   | 7,550   | 7,600   | 7,550   | 7,500   | 7,500   | 7,500   | 7,500   | 7,500   | 7,550   |
| Services                    | 24,150  | 24,600  | 24,750  | 25,100  | 25,550  | 26,200  | 26,500  | 26,650  | 26,400  | 25,650  | 25,200  | 25,500  | 25,500  |
| Government*                 | 27,650  | 28,250  | 28,200  | 28,250  | 27,800  | 27,050  | 27,050  | 27,050  | 28,450  | 28,500  | 28,550  | 28,650  | 27,950  |

Annual averages may not add due to rounding.

\* Government includes teachers in primary and secondary schools, and personnel employed by the University of Alaska.

Benchmark: March 1988.

Source: Alaska Department of Labor, Research & Analysis

Table 6

**Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment  
By Place of Work  
Anchorage-MatSu Region 1987**

|                             | Jan.    | Feb.    | March   | April   | May     | June    | July    | Aug.    | Sept.   | Oct.    | Nov.    | Dec.    | Average |
|-----------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Nonag. Wage & Salary        | 104,600 | 104,950 | 105,500 | 106,600 | 108,350 | 110,050 | 110,400 | 110,850 | 109,900 | 107,700 | 106,050 | 106,700 | 107,650 |
| Mining                      | 3,050   | 3,050   | 3,150   | 3,150   | 3,100   | 3,100   | 3,200   | 3,200   | 3,200   | 3,150   | 3,150   | 3,150   | 3,150   |
| Construction                | 4,900   | 4,850   | 4,900   | 5,100   | 5,700   | 6,500   | 6,600   | 6,900   | 6,400   | 5,900   | 4,850   | 4,400   | 5,600   |
| Manufacturing               | 2,050   | 2,100   | 2,200   | 2,300   | 2,450   | 2,750   | 3,250   | 3,200   | 2,550   | 2,250   | 1,950   | 1,900   | 2,400   |
| Transportation              | 9,500   | 9,450   | 9,700   | 9,700   | 10,300  | 10,800  | 10,650  | 10,450  | 10,400  | 10,000  | 9,800   | 10,050  | 10,050  |
| Trade                       | 24,350  | 24,150  | 24,050  | 24,150  | 24,700  | 25,350  | 25,850  | 26,100  | 26,000  | 25,050  | 25,250  | 25,400  | 25,050  |
| Finance, Ins. & Real Estate | 8,150   | 8,100   | 8,100   | 8,050   | 8,000   | 8,050   | 8,050   | 8,100   | 7,950   | 7,950   | 7,950   | 8,050   | 8,050   |
| Services                    | 24,300  | 24,450  | 24,650  | 25,050  | 25,300  | 25,800  | 25,750  | 25,900  | 25,700  | 25,200  | 24,950  | 25,250  | 25,200  |
| Government*                 | 28,300  | 28,800  | 28,750  | 29,100  | 28,800  | 27,700  | 27,050  | 27,000  | 27,700  | 28,150  | 28,150  | 28,500  | 28,150  |

Annual averages may not add due to rounding.

\* Government includes teachers in primary and secondary schools, and personnel employed by the University of Alaska.

Benchmark: March 1988.

Source: Alaska Department of Labor, Research & Analysis

Table 7

### Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment By Place of Work Fairbanks North Star Borough 1988

|                             | Jan.   | Feb.   | March  | April  | May    | June   | July   | Aug.   | Sept.  | Oct.   | Nov.   | Dec.   | Average |
|-----------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|---------|
| Nonag. Wage & Salary        | 23,650 | 23,750 | 24,000 | 24,950 | 25,550 | 26,450 | 26,650 | 26,850 | 27,000 | 25,950 | 25,200 | 24,750 | 25,400  |
| Mining                      | 100    | 100    | 150    | 150    | 150    | 200    | 200    | 200    | 200    | 150    | 100    | 100    | 150     |
| Construction                | 1,100  | 1,100  | 1,100  | 1,250  | 1,500  | 1,750  | 2,050  | 2,050  | 2,000  | 1,800  | 1,350  | 1,050  | 1,500   |
| Manufacturing               | 450    | 500    | 500    | 550    | 600    | 650    | 700    | 700    | 700    | 650    | 550    | 550    | 600     |
| Transportation              | 1,600  | 1,650  | 1,650  | 1,650  | 1,800  | 2,000  | 2,000  | 2,100  | 2,000  | 1,850  | 1,800  | 1,800  | 1,850   |
| Trucking & Warehousing      | 300    | 350    | 350    | 350    | 350    | 400    | 400    | 400    | 400    | 400    | 400    | 400    | 400     |
| Air Transportation          | 300    | 300    | 300    | 250    | 300    | 300    | 300    | 350    | 300    | 300    | 425    | 300    | 300     |
| All Other Transportation    | 1,000  | 1,000  | 1,000  | 1,050  | 1,150  | 1,300  | 1,300  | 1,350  | 1,300  | 1,150  | 1,100  | 1,100  | 1,150   |
| Trade                       | 5,100  | 5,000  | 5,100  | 5,650  | 5,950  | 6,350  | 6,250  | 6,350  | 6,150  | 5,500  | 5,500  | 5,450  | 5,700   |
| Wholesale                   | 650    | 650    | 700    | 700    | 750    | 750    | 750    | 800    | 700    | 700    | 700    | 650    | 700     |
| Retail                      | 4,450  | 4,350  | 4,400  | 4,950  | 5,200  | 5,600  | 5,500  | 5,550  | 5,450  | 4,800  | 4,800  | 4,800  | 5,000   |
| Food Stores                 | 750    | 750    | 750    | 750    | 750    | 800    | 800    | 750    | 800    | 800    | 800    | 750    | 750     |
| All Other Retail            | 3,700  | 3,600  | 3,650  | 4,200  | 4,450  | 4,800  | 4,700  | 4,800  | 4,650  | 4,000  | 4,000  | 4,050  | 4,200   |
| Finance, Ins. & Real Estate | 900    | 750    | 750    | 800    | 800    | 800    | 800    | 800    | 800    | 750    | 750    | 750    | 800     |
| Services                    | 5,450  | 5,450  | 5,500  | 5,500  | 5,650  | 6,000  | 6,150  | 6,150  | 5,800  | 5,600  | 5,500  | 5,500  | 5,700   |
| Government                  | 8,950  | 9,200  | 9,250  | 9,400  | 9,100  | 8,700  | 8,500  | 8,500  | 9,350  | 9,650  | 9,650  | 9,550  | 9,150   |
| Federal                     | 2,750  | 2,700  | 2,700  | 2,750  | 2,800  | 2,800  | 2,800  | 2,800  | 2,800  | 2,750  | 2,750  | 2,750  | 2,750   |
| State                       | 3,650  | 3,950  | 4,000  | 4,050  | 3,650  | 3,500  | 3,400  | 3,400  | 3,950  | 4,200  | 4,200  | 4,100  | 3,850   |
| Local                       | 2,550  | 2,550  | 2,550  | 2,600  | 2,650  | 2,400  | 2,300  | 2,300  | 2,600  | 2,700  | 2,700  | 2,700  | 2,550   |

Annual averages may not add due to rounding.

\* Government includes teachers in primary and secondary schools, and personnel employed by the University of Alaska.

Benchmark: March 1988.

Source: Alaska Department of Labor, Research & Analysis

#### Revised Labor Force Data Points to Improved Job Market

Labor force statistics are also benchmarked in January using the new nonagricultural wage and salary numbers, as well as other updated data. These benchmarked data were calculated using the new methodology for estimating the statewide unemployment rate. (See Table 20.) (For details about the change in methodology refer to January 1989 *Trends* article entitled, "January

#### Estimates of Statewide Unemployment Will Be Calculated Using New Method".)

The employment numbers in the labor force table differ from the nonagricultural wage and salary numbers because of the disparate definitions and methodologies used in making estimates. Nonagricultural wage and salary employment is considered the better indicator of changes in industry employment; the

Table 8

### Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment By Place of Work Fairbanks North Star Borough 1987

|                             | Jan.   | Feb.   | March  | April  | May    | June   | July   | Aug.   | Sept.  | Oct.   | Nov.   | Dec.   | Average |
|-----------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|---------|
| Nonag. Wage & Salary        | 23,900 | 24,150 | 24,400 | 25,000 | 25,650 | 27,250 | 26,900 | 27,550 | 27,150 | 25,600 | 25,000 | 24,250 | 25,550  |
| Mining                      | 100    | 100    | 100    | 150    | 150    | 200    | 200    | 200    | 200    | 100    | 50     | 50     | 150     |
| Construction                | 1,150  | 1,150  | 1,150  | 1,250  | 1,550  | 1,900  | 2,050  | 2,150  | 1,950  | 1,700  | 1,300  | 1,050  | 1,550   |
| Manufacturing               | 500    | 500    | 500    | 500    | 500    | 550    | 600    | 600    | 600    | 550    | 500    | 450    | 550     |
| Transportation              | 2,100  | 2,050  | 2,050  | 1,950  | 2,000  | 2,150  | 2,200  | 2,150  | 2,050  | 1,900  | 1,800  | 1,700  | 2,000   |
| Trucking & Warehousing      | 350    | 350    | 350    | 350    | 350    | 350    | 400    | 400    | 350    | 350    | 350    | 350    | 350     |
| Air Transportation          | 300    | 300    | 300    | 300    | 300    | 300    | 350    | 350    | 300    | 400    | 400    | 400    | 350     |
| All Other Transportation    | 1,450  | 1,400  | 1,400  | 1,300  | 1,350  | 1,500  | 1,450  | 1,400  | 1,400  | 1,150  | 1,050  | 950    | 1,300   |
| Trade                       | 4,850  | 4,800  | 4,850  | 5,200  | 5,650  | 6,450  | 6,000  | 6,300  | 6,250  | 5,500  | 5,500  | 5,450  | 5,550   |
| Wholesale                   | 750    | 750    | 750    | 750    | 750    | 800    | 800    | 850    | 750    | 700    | 700    | 700    | 750     |
| Retail                      | 4,100  | 4,050  | 4,100  | 4,450  | 4,900  | 5,650  | 5,200  | 5,450  | 5,500  | 4,800  | 4,800  | 4,750  | 4,800   |
| Food Stores                 | 650    | 650    | 650    | 700    | 700    | 700    | 750    | 850    | 850    | 850    | 850    | 800    | 750     |
| All Other Retail            | 3,450  | 3,400  | 3,450  | 3,750  | 4,200  | 4,950  | 4,450  | 4,600  | 4,650  | 3,950  | 3,950  | 3,950  | 4,050   |
| Finance, Ins. & Real Estate | 950    | 900    | 900    | 900    | 900    | 950    | 900    | 850    | 900    | 700    | 700    | 700    | 850     |
| Services                    | 5,300  | 5,350  | 5,450  | 5,500  | 5,650  | 6,100  | 6,350  | 6,450  | 6,150  | 5,750  | 5,700  | 5,700  | 5,800   |
| Government                  | 8,950  | 9,300  | 9,400  | 9,550  | 9,250  | 8,950  | 8,600  | 8,850  | 9,050  | 9,400  | 9,450  | 9,150  | 9,150   |
| Federal                     | 2,650  | 2,700  | 2,700  | 2,850  | 2,950  | 3,000  | 2,850  | 2,850  | 2,850  | 2,850  | 2,850  | 2,800  | 2,850   |
| State                       | 3,600  | 3,900  | 3,950  | 3,950  | 3,550  | 3,400  | 3,300  | 3,600  | 3,750  | 4,000  | 4,050  | 3,800  | 3,750   |
| Local                       | 2,700  | 2,700  | 2,750  | 2,750  | 2,750  | 2,550  | 2,450  | 2,400  | 2,450  | 2,550  | 2,550  | 2,550  | 2,600   |

Annual averages may not add due to rounding.

\* Government includes teachers in primary and secondary schools, and personnel employed by the University of Alaska.

Benchmark: March 1988.

Source: Alaska Department of Labor, Research & Analysis

labor force data is considered a better measure of job prospects and of unemployed people's current hardships.

In 1988 Alaska posted an unemployment rate of 9.5 percent, the lowest level of unemployment since 1981. The year 1988 began with four months of unemployment rates near 11 percent. But as the year progressed, the unemployment rate declined to levels normally associated with a stable

Alaska economy. The year closed with seven consecutive months of unemployment rates below 10 percent. Additionally, there were reports of labor shortages in some industries, including logging, seafood processing, and eating and drinking establishments. These signs indicate that the Alaska job market had turned the corner in 1988 and that employment opportunities had become more plentiful in many areas of the state.

Table 9

### Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment By Place of Work Interior Region 1988

|                             | Jan.   | Feb.   | March  | April  | May    | June   | July   | Aug.   | Sept.  | Oct.   | Nov.   | Dec.   | Average |
|-----------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|---------|
| Nonag. Wage & Salary        | 27,050 | 27,100 | 27,300 | 28,900 | 29,500 | 30,800 | 30,850 | 31,350 | 31,450 | 29,800 | 28,700 | 28,150 | 29,250  |
| Mining                      | 200    | 300    | 300    | 300    | 300    | 350    | 350    | 350    | 350    | 300    | 250    | 250    | 300     |
| Construction                | 1,100  | 1,100  | 1,100  | 1,350  | 1,650  | 1,850  | 2,100  | 2,150  | 2,150  | 1,900  | 1,450  | 1,100  | 1,600   |
| Manufacturing               | 500    | 500    | 500    | 600    | 600    | 700    | 700    | 750    | 700    | 650    | 550    | 550    | 600     |
| Transportation              | 1,850  | 1,850  | 1,900  | 1,950  | 2,150  | 2,500  | 2,550  | 2,600  | 2,450  | 2,200  | 2,050  | 2,050  | 2,200   |
| Trade                       | 5,400  | 5,250  | 5,350  | 5,950  | 6,300  | 6,800  | 6,750  | 6,850  | 6,700  | 5,900  | 5,850  | 5,800  | 6,100   |
| Finance, Ins. & Real Estate | 1,000  | 800    | 800    | 900    | 850    | 900    | 900    | 900    | 900    | 800    | 800    | 800    | 850     |
| Services                    | 5,850  | 5,850  | 5,900  | 6,050  | 6,200  | 6,650  | 6,850  | 6,900  | 6,450  | 6,100  | 5,950  | 5,950  | 6,250   |
| Government*                 | 11,150 | 11,450 | 11,450 | 11,800 | 11,450 | 11,050 | 10,650 | 10,850 | 11,750 | 11,950 | 11,800 | 11,650 | 11,400  |

Annual averages may not add due to rounding.

\* Government includes teachers in primary and secondary schools, and personnel employed by the University of Alaska.

Benchmark: March 1988

Source: Alaska Department of Labor, Research & Analysis

Table 10

### Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment By Place of Work Interior Region 1987

|                             | Jan.   | Feb.   | March  | April  | May    | June   | July   | Aug.   | Sept.  | Oct.   | Nov.   | Dec.   | Average |
|-----------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|---------|
| Nonag. Wage & Salary        | 27,300 | 27,550 | 27,700 | 28,700 | 29,900 | 31,550 | 31,100 | 31,900 | 31,350 | 29,300 | 28,350 | 27,750 | 29,350  |
| Mining                      | 200    | 200    | 200    | 250    | 300    | 350    | 350    | 350    | 350    | 200    | 200    | 200    | 250     |
| Construction                | 1,250  | 1,200  | 1,250  | 1,400  | 1,750  | 2,100  | 2,250  | 2,350  | 2,100  | 1,800  | 1,400  | 1,100  | 1,650   |
| Manufacturing               | 500    | 500    | 500    | 500    | 550    | 600    | 600    | 650    | 600    | 550    | 500    | 500    | 550     |
| Transportation              | 2,400  | 2,350  | 2,300  | 2,250  | 2,400  | 2,600  | 2,600  | 2,550  | 2,400  | 2,200  | 2,050  | 1,950  | 2,350   |
| Trade                       | 5,100  | 5,050  | 5,100  | 5,500  | 6,100  | 6,900  | 6,500  | 6,800  | 6,650  | 5,850  | 5,750  | 5,800  | 5,950   |
| Finance, Ins. & Real Estate | 1,000  | 1,000  | 950    | 950    | 1,000  | 1,050  | 1,000  | 950    | 950    | 750    | 750    | 750    | 950     |
| Services                    | 5,700  | 5,750  | 5,850  | 6,000  | 6,100  | 6,750  | 7,100  | 7,200  | 6,850  | 6,250  | 6,100  | 6,100  | 6,300   |
| Government*                 | 11,150 | 11,500 | 11,550 | 11,850 | 11,700 | 11,200 | 10,700 | 11,650 | 11,450 | 11,700 | 11,600 | 11,350 | 11,400  |

Annual averages may not add due to rounding.

\* Government includes teachers in primary and secondary schools, and personnel employed by the University of Alaska.

Benchmark: March 1988

Source: Alaska Department of Labor, Research & Analysis

Table 11

### Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment By Place of Work Southeast Region 1988

|                             | Jan.   | Feb.   | March  | April  | May    | June   | July   | Aug.   | Sept.  | Oct.   | Nov.   | Dec.   | Average |
|-----------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|---------|
| Nonag. Wage & Salary        | 26,100 | 27,000 | 28,700 | 29,900 | 30,950 | 32,450 | 33,750 | 34,200 | 33,450 | 31,700 | 30,250 | 29,450 | 30,650  |
| Mining                      | 150    | 150    | 200    | 150    | 200    | 200    | 200    | 200    | 200    | 200    | 200    | 200    | 200     |
| Construction                | 700    | 750    | 950    | 1,000  | 1,100  | 1,100  | 1,200  | 1,250  | 1,250  | 1,250  | 1,150  | 950    | 1,050   |
| Manufacturing               | 3,000  | 3,350  | 4,400  | 4,950  | 5,100  | 5,750  | 7,000  | 7,250  | 6,450  | 5,450  | 4,700  | 4,150  | 5,150   |
| Seafood Processing          | 700    | 650    | 1,100  | 1,250  | 1,200  | 1,550  | 2,750  | 2,950  | 2,150  | 1,200  | 600    | 600    | 1,400   |
| Lumber & Paper Products     | 2,050  | 2,450  | 3,050  | 3,450  | 3,600  | 3,900  | 3,950  | 4,000  | 4,000  | 3,950  | 3,800  | 3,250  | 3,450   |
| All Other Manufacturing     | 250    | 250    | 250    | 250    | 300    | 300    | 300    | 300    | 300    | 300    | 300    | 300    | 300     |
| Transportation              | 1,850  | 1,900  | 2,000  | 2,050  | 2,250  | 2,600  | 2,550  | 2,600  | 2,450  | 2,300  | 2,200  | 2,150  | 2,250   |
| Trade                       | 4,200  | 4,200  | 4,300  | 4,500  | 4,850  | 5,100  | 5,250  | 5,300  | 5,150  | 4,950  | 4,800  | 4,800  | 4,800   |
| Wholesale                   | 400    | 400    | 400    | 400    | 400    | 450    | 450    | 450    | 450    | 450    | 450    | 450    | 450     |
| Retail                      | 3,800  | 3,800  | 3,900  | 4,100  | 4,450  | 4,650  | 4,800  | 4,850  | 4,700  | 4,500  | 4,350  | 4,350  | 4,350   |
| Finance, Ins. & Real Estate | 1,000  | 1,050  | 1,050  | 1,050  | 1,000  | 1,050  | 1,050  | 1,050  | 1,000  | 1,000  | 1,000  | 1,000  | 1,050   |
| Services                    | 4,300  | 4,400  | 4,500  | 4,650  | 4,900  | 5,250  | 5,250  | 5,250  | 5,150  | 4,850  | 4,650  | 4,600  | 4,800   |
| Government*                 | 10,900 | 11,200 | 11,300 | 11,550 | 11,550 | 11,400 | 11,250 | 11,300 | 11,800 | 11,700 | 11,550 | 11,600 | 11,450  |
| Federal                     | 1,900  | 1,850  | 1,850  | 1,900  | 2,000  | 2,100  | 2,100  | 2,100  | 2,100  | 2,050  | 2,000  | 2,050  | 2,000   |
| State                       | 4,850  | 5,050  | 5,100  | 5,200  | 5,100  | 5,100  | 5,100  | 5,150  | 5,350  | 5,250  | 5,200  | 5,100  | 5,150   |
| Local                       | 4,150  | 4,300  | 4,350  | 4,450  | 4,450  | 4,200  | 4,050  | 4,050  | 4,350  | 4,400  | 4,350  | 4,450  | 4,300   |

Annual averages may not add due to rounding.

\* Government includes teachers in primary and secondary schools, and personnel employed by the University of Alaska.

Benchmark: March 1988.

Source: Alaska Department of Labor, Research & Analysis

Table 12

### Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment By Place of Work Southeast Region 1987

|                             | Jan.   | Feb.   | March  | April  | May    | June   | July   | Aug.   | Sept.  | Oct.   | Nov.   | Dec.   | Average |
|-----------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|---------|
| Nonag. Wage & Salary        | 25,650 | 26,350 | 27,050 | 28,050 | 29,300 | 30,500 | 31,750 | 32,150 | 31,150 | 29,900 | 28,550 | 28,500 | 29,100  |
| Mining                      | 50     | 50     | 50     | 50     | 50     | 100    | 100    | 100    | 100    | 150    | 150    | 150    | 100     |
| Construction                | 850    | 950    | 1,000  | 1,050  | 1,200  | 1,250  | 1,050  | 1,250  | 1,050  | 1,200  | 1,100  | 1,000  | 1,100   |
| Manufacturing               | 2,500  | 2,950  | 3,150  | 3,800  | 4,200  | 4,700  | 6,050  | 6,400  | 5,500  | 4,600  | 4,200  | 3,900  | 4,350   |
| Seafood Processing          | 600    | 600    | 550    | 800    | 1,000  | 1,300  | 2,400  | 2,650  | 1,700  | 950    | 700    | 650    | 1,150   |
| Lumber & Paper Products     | 1,700  | 2,150  | 2,400  | 2,800  | 3,000  | 3,150  | 3,400  | 3,500  | 3,550  | 3,400  | 3,250  | 3,000  | 2,950   |
| All Other Manufacturing     | 200    | 200    | 200    | 200    | 200    | 250    | 250    | 250    | 250    | 250    | 250    | 250    | 250     |
| Transportation              | 1,750  | 1,800  | 2,000  | 1,900  | 2,100  | 2,500  | 2,450  | 2,450  | 2,450  | 2,250  | 2,150  | 2,050  | 2,150   |
| Trade                       | 4,100  | 4,050  | 4,200  | 4,300  | 4,650  | 4,950  | 5,050  | 5,050  | 4,900  | 4,650  | 4,500  | 4,500  | 4,600   |
| Wholesale                   | 350    | 350    | 400    | 400    | 400    | 400    | 450    | 450    | 400    | 400    | 400    | 400    | 400     |
| Retail                      | 3,750  | 3,700  | 3,800  | 3,900  | 4,250  | 4,550  | 4,600  | 4,600  | 4,500  | 4,250  | 4,100  | 4,100  | 4,200   |
| Finance, Ins. & Real Estate | 1,050  | 1,050  | 1,050  | 1,050  | 1,050  | 1,150  | 1,150  | 1,150  | 1,050  | 1,050  | 1,000  | 1,050  | 1,050   |
| Services                    | 4,300  | 4,400  | 4,400  | 4,550  | 4,750  | 5,000  | 4,850  | 4,850  | 4,800  | 4,650  | 4,350  | 4,450  | 4,600   |
| Government*                 | 11,050 | 11,200 | 11,200 | 11,350 | 11,300 | 10,950 | 11,050 | 10,900 | 11,300 | 11,350 | 11,100 | 11,400 | 11,200  |
| Federal                     | 1,850  | 1,800  | 1,850  | 1,900  | 1,950  | 2,050  | 2,150  | 2,150  | 2,200  | 1,950  | 1,950  | 2,050  | 2,000   |
| State                       | 5,000  | 5,100  | 5,100  | 5,150  | 5,050  | 4,950  | 4,950  | 4,900  | 4,950  | 5,000  | 4,850  | 4,750  | 5,000   |
| Local                       | 4,200  | 4,300  | 4,250  | 4,300  | 4,300  | 3,950  | 3,950  | 3,850  | 4,150  | 4,400  | 4,300  | 4,600  | 4,200   |

Annual averages may not add due to rounding.

\* Government includes teachers in primary and secondary schools, and personnel employed by the University of Alaska.

Benchmark: March 1988.

Source: Alaska Department of Labor, Research & Analysis

Table 13

### Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment By Place of Work Gulf Coast Region 1988

|                             | Jan.   | Feb.   | March  | April  | May    | June   | July   | Aug.   | Sept.  | Oct.   | Nov.   | Dec.   | Average |
|-----------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|---------|
| Nonag. Wage & Salary        | 16,650 | 16,850 | 17,300 | 17,850 | 19,450 | 21,650 | 24,700 | 23,750 | 21,500 | 19,600 | 18,500 | 18,000 | 19,650  |
| Mining                      | 750    | 800    | 800    | 800    | 850    | 850    | 850    | 850    | 850    | 800    | 800    | 850    | 800     |
| Construction                | 600    | 600    | 650    | 700    | 800    | 950    | 950    | 1,100  | 1,100  | 1,050  | 850    | 700    | 850     |
| Manufacturing               | 2,100  | 2,150  | 2,400  | 2,450  | 3,100  | 4,300  | 7,450  | 6,400  | 4,400  | 2,950  | 2,450  | 2,200  | 3,550   |
| Seafood Processing          | 1,500  | 1,550  | 1,800  | 1,850  | 2,450  | 3,650  | 6,800  | 5,750  | 3,700  | 2,250  | 1,800  | 1,550  | 2,900   |
| All Other Manufacturing     | 600    | 600    | 600    | 600    | 650    | 650    | 650    | 650    | 700    | 700    | 650    | 650    | 650     |
| Transportation              | 1,300  | 1,300  | 1,300  | 1,300  | 1,350  | 1,550  | 1,600  | 1,500  | 1,450  | 1,400  | 1,400  | 1,350  | 1,400   |
| Trade                       | 3,150  | 3,150  | 3,150  | 3,350  | 3,750  | 4,050  | 4,250  | 4,200  | 3,850  | 3,700  | 3,550  | 3,550  | 3,650   |
| Wholesale                   | 450    | 450    | 450    | 450    | 550    | 650    | 700    | 650    | 550    | 500    | 450    | 450    | 550     |
| Retail                      | 2,700  | 2,700  | 2,700  | 2,900  | 3,200  | 3,400  | 3,550  | 3,550  | 3,300  | 3,200  | 3,100  | 3,100  | 3,100   |
| Finance, Ins. & Real Estate | 550    | 500    | 550    | 550    | 550    | 550    | 550    | 550    | 550    | 550    | 550    | 550    | 550     |
| Services                    | 3,000  | 3,000  | 3,000  | 3,150  | 3,450  | 3,850  | 3,850  | 3,800  | 3,600  | 3,350  | 3,200  | 3,150  | 3,350   |
| Government*                 | 5,200  | 5,350  | 5,450  | 5,550  | 5,600  | 5,550  | 5,200  | 5,350  | 5,700  | 5,800  | 5,700  | 5,650  | 5,500   |
| Federal                     | 500    | 500    | 500    | 500    | 550    | 600    | 600    | 600    | 650    | 600    | 550    | 550    | 550     |
| State                       | 1,400  | 1,500  | 1,550  | 1,600  | 1,550  | 1,600  | 1,600  | 1,650  | 1,850  | 1,850  | 1,800  | 1,750  | 1,650   |
| Local                       | 3,300  | 3,350  | 3,400  | 3,450  | 3,500  | 3,350  | 3,000  | 3,100  | 3,200  | 3,350  | 3,350  | 3,350  | 3,300   |

Annual averages may not add due to rounding.

\* Government includes teachers in primary and secondary schools, and personnel employed by the University of Alaska.

Benchmark: March 1988.

Source: Alaska Department of Labor, Research & Analysis

Table 14

### Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment By Place of Work Gulf Coast Region 1987

|                             | Jan.   | Feb.   | March  | April  | May    | June   | July   | Aug.   | Sept.  | Oct.   | Nov.   | Dec.   | Average |
|-----------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|---------|
| Nonag. Wage & Salary        | 16,650 | 17,250 | 17,600 | 18,350 | 20,200 | 21,000 | 23,000 | 22,050 | 19,200 | 18,700 | 17,700 | 17,450 | 19,100  |
| Mining                      | 700    | 650    | 650    | 700    | 800    | 800    | 750    | 850    | 900    | 800    | 800    | 800    | 750     |
| Construction                | 850    | 850    | 850    | 850    | 1,000  | 1,100  | 1,100  | 1,100  | 1,050  | 1,000  | 800    | 700    | 950     |
| Manufacturing               | 1,950  | 2,350  | 2,650  | 3,100  | 3,950  | 4,250  | 6,650  | 5,300  | 2,800  | 2,750  | 2,300  | 2,150  | 3,350   |
| Seafood Processing          | 1,350  | 1,750  | 2,050  | 2,500  | 3,350  | 3,650  | 6,050  | 4,700  | 2,200  | 2,150  | 1,700  | 1,550  | 2,750   |
| All Other Manufacturing     | 600    | 600    | 600    | 600    | 600    | 600    | 600    | 600    | 600    | 600    | 600    | 600    | 600     |
| Transportation              | 1,200  | 1,250  | 1,250  | 1,250  | 1,300  | 1,400  | 1,400  | 1,450  | 1,400  | 1,350  | 1,350  | 1,300  | 1,350   |
| Trade                       | 3,150  | 3,100  | 3,150  | 3,350  | 3,800  | 4,000  | 4,100  | 4,100  | 3,700  | 3,500  | 3,400  | 3,350  | 3,550   |
| Wholesale                   | 400    | 400    | 450    | 500    | 550    | 650    | 650    | 650    | 500    | 450    | 450    | 400    | 500     |
| Retail                      | 2,750  | 2,700  | 2,700  | 2,850  | 3,250  | 3,350  | 3,450  | 3,450  | 3,200  | 3,050  | 2,950  | 2,950  | 3,050   |
| Finance, Ins. & Real Estate | 600    | 600    | 600    | 550    | 550    | 600    | 550    | 550    | 550    | 550    | 550    | 600    | 550     |
| Services                    | 2,950  | 3,000  | 3,000  | 3,100  | 3,350  | 3,550  | 3,550  | 3,650  | 3,450  | 3,250  | 3,150  | 3,200  | 3,250   |
| Government*                 | 5,250  | 5,450  | 5,450  | 5,450  | 5,450  | 5,300  | 4,900  | 5,050  | 5,350  | 5,500  | 5,350  | 5,350  | 5,300   |
| Federal                     | 500    | 500    | 500    | 500    | 550    | 600    | 600    | 600    | 600    | 550    | 500    | 550    | 550     |
| State                       | 1,400  | 1,500  | 1,500  | 1,550  | 1,450  | 1,450  | 1,450  | 1,450  | 1,600  | 1,600  | 1,500  | 1,500  | 1,500   |
| Local                       | 3,350  | 3,450  | 3,450  | 3,400  | 3,450  | 3,250  | 2,850  | 3,000  | 3,150  | 3,350  | 3,350  | 3,300  | 3,300   |

Annual averages may not add due to rounding.

\* Government includes teachers in primary and secondary schools, and personnel employed by the University of Alaska.

Benchmark: March 1988.

Source: Alaska Department of Labor, Research & Analysis

Table 15

### Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment By Place of Work Southwest Region 1988

|                      | Jan.   | Feb.   | March  | April  | May    | June   | July   | Aug.   | Sept.  | Oct.   | Nov.   | Dec.   | Average |
|----------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|---------|
| Nonag. Wage & Salary | 11,200 | 12,050 | 12,250 | 12,550 | 13,100 | 14,200 | 16,050 | 14,650 | 13,800 | 12,950 | 12,050 | 11,700 | 13,050  |
| Seafood Processing   | 1,700  | 2,150  | 2,300  | 2,200  | 2,650  | 3,850  | 5,750  | 4,200  | 2,800  | 2,100  | 1,650  | 1,500  | 2,750   |
| All Other Private    | 3,850  | 3,900  | 3,950  | 4,200  | 4,450  | 4,800  | 4,900  | 5,000  | 4,750  | 4,500  | 4,150  | 4,050  | 4,400   |
| Government*          | 5,650  | 6,000  | 6,000  | 6,150  | 6,000  | 5,550  | 5,400  | 5,450  | 6,250  | 6,350  | 6,250  | 6,150  | 5,950   |
| Federal              | 1,200  | 1,300  | 1,250  | 1,250  | 1,250  | 1,300  | 1,350  | 1,300  | 1,300  | 1,300  | 1,300  | 1,300  | 1,300   |
| State                | 400    | 450    | 450    | 500    | 450    | 450    | 550    | 550    | 550    | 550    | 550    | 550    | 500     |
| Local                | 4,050  | 4,250  | 4,300  | 4,400  | 4,300  | 3,800  | 3,500  | 3,600  | 4,400  | 4,500  | 4,400  | 4,300  | 4,150   |

Annual averages may not add due to rounding.

\* Government includes teachers in primary and secondary schools, and personnel employed by the University of Alaska.

Benchmark: March 1988.

Source: Alaska Department of Labor, Research & Analysis

Table 16

### Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment By Place of Work Southwest Region 1987

|                      | Jan.   | Feb.   | March  | April  | May    | June   | July   | Aug.   | Sept.  | Oct.   | Nov.   | Dec.   | Average |
|----------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|---------|
| Nonag. Wage & Salary | 10,250 | 10,500 | 10,750 | 11,400 | 12,350 | 12,850 | 14,100 | 13,550 | 12,750 | 12,150 | 11,400 | 11,350 | 11,950  |
| Seafood Processing   | 1,400  | 1,550  | 1,600  | 1,950  | 2,400  | 2,900  | 4,200  | 3,450  | 2,300  | 1,750  | 1,400  | 1,400  | 2,200   |
| All Other Private    | 3,450  | 3,450  | 3,700  | 3,900  | 4,250  | 4,650  | 4,800  | 4,850  | 4,600  | 4,300  | 4,050  | 4,100  | 4,200   |
| Government*          | 5,400  | 5,500  | 5,450  | 5,550  | 5,700  | 5,300  | 5,100  | 5,250  | 5,850  | 6,100  | 5,950  | 5,850  | 5,600   |
| Federal              | 1,050  | 1,050  | 1,050  | 1,100  | 1,150  | 1,200  | 1,250  | 1,250  | 1,250  | 1,200  | 1,200  | 1,200  | 1,150   |
| State                | 400    | 450    | 450    | 450    | 450    | 450    | 450    | 500    | 450    | 450    | 450    | 450    | 450     |
| Local                | 3,950  | 4,000  | 3,950  | 4,000  | 4,100  | 3,650  | 3,400  | 3,500  | 4,150  | 4,450  | 4,300  | 4,200  | 3,950   |

Annual averages may not add due to rounding.

\* Government includes teachers in primary and secondary schools, and personnel employed by the University of Alaska.

Benchmark: March 1988.

Source: Alaska Department of Labor, Research & Analysis

**Table 17**

### Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment By Place of Work Northern Region 1988

|                      | Jan.   | Feb.   | March  | April  | May    | June   | July   | Aug.   | Sept.  | Oct.   | Nov.   | Dec.   | Average |
|----------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|---------|
| Nonag. Wage & Salary | 12,050 | 12,450 | 12,650 | 12,850 | 13,000 | 13,850 | 13,500 | 13,700 | 13,950 | 13,600 | 13,350 | 12,900 | 13,150  |
| Mining               | 3,900  | 4,200  | 4,500  | 4,900  | 4,900  | 5,600  | 5,200  | 5,250  | 5,050  | 4,950  | 4,900  | 4,750  | 4,850   |
| All Other Private    | 3,750  | 3,800  | 3,650  | 3,700  | 3,750  | 3,900  | 4,200  | 4,250  | 4,150  | 4,100  | 3,900  | 3,750  | 3,900   |
| Government*          | 4,400  | 4,450  | 4,500  | 4,250  | 4,350  | 4,350  | 4,100  | 4,200  | 4,750  | 4,550  | 4,550  | 4,400  | 4,400   |
| Federal              | 350    | 350    | 350    | 350    | 350    | 400    | 400    | 400    | 400    | 350    | 350    | 350    | 350     |
| State                | 300    | 350    | 350    | 350    | 350    | 300    | 300    | 300    | 350    | 350    | 350    | 350    | 350     |
| Local                | 3,750  | 3,750  | 3,800  | 3,550  | 3,650  | 3,650  | 3,400  | 3,500  | 4,000  | 3,850  | 3,850  | 3,700  | 3,700   |

Annual averages may not add due to rounding.

\* Government includes teachers in primary and secondary schools, and personnel employed by the University of Alaska.

Benchmark: March 1988.

Source: Alaska Department of Labor, Research & Analysis

**Table 18**

### Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment By Place of Work Northern Region 1987

|                      | Jan.   | Feb.   | March  | April  | May    | June   | July   | Aug.   | Sept.  | Oct.   | Nov.   | Dec.   | Average |
|----------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|---------|
| Nonag. Wage & Salary | 12,500 | 12,600 | 12,500 | 12,500 | 12,600 | 13,000 | 13,450 | 13,900 | 13,950 | 13,350 | 12,900 | 12,500 | 13,000  |
| Mining               | 3,950  | 3,950  | 3,900  | 4,100  | 4,150  | 4,600  | 5,000  | 5,250  | 5,200  | 4,900  | 4,600  | 4,350  | 4,500   |
| All Other Private    | 4,550  | 4,400  | 4,350  | 4,250  | 4,200  | 4,300  | 4,550  | 4,750  | 4,350  | 4,050  | 4,000  | 3,900  | 4,300   |
| Government*          | 4,000  | 4,250  | 4,250  | 4,150  | 4,250  | 4,100  | 3,900  | 3,900  | 4,400  | 4,400  | 4,300  | 4,250  | 4,200   |
| Federal              | 300    | 350    | 350    | 350    | 350    | 350    | 400    | 400    | 400    | 400    | 350    | 350    | 350     |
| State                | 300    | 350    | 350    | 300    | 350    | 350    | 300    | 350    | 350    | 350    | 350    | 300    | 350     |
| Local                | 3,400  | 3,550  | 3,550  | 3,500  | 3,550  | 3,400  | 3,200  | 3,150  | 3,650  | 3,650  | 3,600  | 3,600  | 3,500   |

Annual averages may not add due to rounding.

\* Government includes teachers in primary and secondary schools, and personnel employed by the University of Alaska.

Benchmark: March 1988.

Source: Alaska Department of Labor, Research & Analysis

Table 19

### Average Weekly Earnings 1988

| Industry                  | Jan.       | Feb.       | March      | April      | May        | June       | July       | Aug.       | Sept.      | Oct.       | Nov.       | Dec.       | Average    |
|---------------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Mining                    | \$1,160.62 | \$1,137.63 | \$1,140.95 | \$1,215.54 | \$1,182.06 | \$1,205.89 | \$1,192.08 | \$1,163.94 | \$1,140.65 | \$1,094.17 | \$1,091.39 | \$1,111.32 | \$1,154.69 |
| Construction              | 858.24     | 902.40     | 904.04     | 977.32     | 988.29     | 1,020.82   | 1,056.18   | 1,055.38   | 1,087.20   | 1,033.79   | 876.63     | 847.48     | 985.73     |
| Manufacturing             | 491.06     | 477.95     | 511.80     | 510.50     | 497.76     | 518.46     | 474.95     | 522.47     | 492.67     | 589.31     | 604.24     | 585.43     | 518.22     |
| Seafood Processing        | 311.83     | 301.48     | 361.30     | 302.78     | 295.20     | 369.90     | 392.85     | 412.85     | 283.72     | 364.23     | 422.18     | 368.84     | 357.33     |
| Lumber & Paper Prod.      | 550.10     | 572.88     | 647.80     | 703.50     | 672.26     | 688.33     | 609.87     | 713.37     | 756.42     | 775.56     | 706.20     | 703.88     | 684.34     |
| Trans., Comm. & Utilities | 584.97     | 576.20     | 658.31     | 594.46     | 563.29     | 578.89     | 626.73     | 570.13     | 577.94     | 613.26     | 570.38     | 555.97     | 581.01     |
| Trade                     | 361.45     | 366.49     | 358.60     | 377.65     | 356.43     | 378.22     | 395.20     | 369.35     | 376.20     | 380.95     | 372.90     | 370.61     | 372.96     |
| Wholesale                 | 541.33     | 544.71     | 515.97     | 523.71     | 487.88     | 543.82     | 570.35     | 512.34     | 529.45     | 541.94     | 523.11     | 519.23     | 529.42     |
| Retail 1/2                | 299.07     | 303.85     | 305.60     | 327.10     | 311.62     | 322.60     | 333.29     | 320.09     | 323.78     | 327.06     | 324.05     | 324.29     | 318.95     |
| Finance, Ins. & R.E.      | \$397.86   | \$404.00   | \$390.32   | \$406.39   | \$400.62   | \$387.38   | \$414.64   | \$394.02   | \$412.45   | \$414.75   | \$398.93   | \$404.08   | \$402.61   |

### Average Weekly Hours 1988

| Industry                  | Jan. | Feb. | March | April | May  | June | July | Aug. | Sept. | Oct. | Nov. | Dec. | Average |
|---------------------------|------|------|-------|-------|------|------|------|------|-------|------|------|------|---------|
| Mining                    | 47.9 | 48.7 | 49.2  | 50.5  | 49.5 | 51.6 | 50.9 | 50.3 | 49.4  | 49.0 | 48.1 | 49.0 | 49.6    |
| Construction              | 36.0 | 37.9 | 38.8  | 41.5  | 41.7 | 43.0 | 43.5 | 43.2 | 45.0  | 43.4 | 37.9 | 37.4 | 41.4    |
| Manufacturing             | 37.6 | 38.7 | 42.9  | 37.1  | 36.6 | 43.9 | 45.8 | 46.9 | 38.4  | 43.3 | 45.5 | 42.3 | 42.2    |
| Seafood Processing        | 36.6 | 38.8 | 46.8  | 33.2  | 32.8 | 45.0 | 48.5 | 48.8 | 34.6  | 42.7 | 50.5 | 44.6 | 43.0    |
| Lumber & Paper Prod.      | 36.6 | 37.2 | 39.5  | 41.9  | 40.4 | 42.1 | 37.6 | 43.0 | 44.6  | 46.0 | 42.8 | 40.5 | 41.4    |
| Trans., Comm. & Utilities | 37.0 | 35.9 | 34.4  | 36.9  | 34.9 | 36.5 | 39.0 | 35.7 | 35.5  | 37.1 | 36.1 | 35.3 | 36.2    |
| Trade                     | 33.1 | 33.5 | 32.6  | 33.9  | 32.7 | 33.8 | 35.7 | 33.7 | 33.5  | 33.3 | 33.0 | 33.6 | 33.6    |
| Wholesale                 | 39.6 | 40.2 | 37.8  | 39.2  | 37.3 | 38.9 | 41.3 | 37.7 | 38.2  | 38.3 | 38.1 | 37.9 | 38.7    |
| Retail 1/2                | 30.8 | 31.1 | 30.9  | 32.1  | 31.1 | 32.1 | 33.7 | 32.3 | 31.9  | 31.6 | 31.4 | 32.3 | 31.8    |
| Finance, Ins. & R.E.      | 34.9 | 35.1 | 34.0  | 35.9  | 34.3 | 34.1 | 35.5 | 33.0 | 34.2  | 35.0 | 33.3 | 34.1 | 34.5    |

### Average Hourly Earnings 1988

| Industry                  | Jan.    | Feb.    | March   | April   | May     | June    | July    | Aug.    | Sept.   | Oct.    | Nov.    | Dec.    | Average |
|---------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Mining                    | \$24.23 | \$23.36 | \$23.19 | \$24.07 | \$23.88 | \$23.37 | \$23.42 | \$23.14 | \$23.09 | \$22.33 | \$22.69 | \$22.68 | \$23.28 |
| Construction              | 23.84   | 23.81   | 23.30   | 23.55   | 23.70   | 23.74   | 24.28   | 24.43   | 24.16   | 23.82   | 23.13   | 22.66   | 23.81   |
| Manufacturing             | 13.06   | 12.35   | 11.93   | 13.76   | 13.60   | 11.81   | 10.37   | 11.14   | 12.83   | 13.61   | 13.28   | 13.84   | 12.28   |
| Seafood Processing        | 8.52    | 7.77    | 7.72    | 9.12    | 9.00    | 8.22    | 8.10    | 8.46    | 8.20    | 8.53    | 8.36    | 8.27    | 8.31    |
| Lumber & Paper Prod.      | 15.03   | 15.40   | 16.40   | 16.79   | 16.64   | 16.35   | 16.22   | 16.59   | 16.96   | 16.86   | 16.50   | 17.36   | 16.53   |
| Trans., Comm. & Utilities | 15.81   | 16.05   | 16.23   | 16.11   | 16.14   | 15.86   | 16.07   | 15.97   | 16.28   | 16.53   | 15.80   | 15.75   | 16.05   |
| Trade                     | 10.92   | 10.94   | 11.00   | 11.14   | 10.90   | 11.19   | 11.07   | 10.96   | 11.23   | 11.44   | 11.30   | 11.03   | 11.10   |
| Wholesale                 | 13.67   | 13.55   | 13.65   | 13.36   | 13.08   | 13.98   | 13.81   | 13.59   | 13.86   | 14.15   | 13.73   | 13.70   | 13.68   |
| Retail 1/2                | 9.71    | 9.77    | 9.89    | 10.19   | 10.02   | 10.05   | 9.89    | 9.91    | 10.15   | 10.35   | 10.32   | 10.04   | 10.03   |
| Finance, Ins. & R.E.      | \$11.40 | \$11.51 | \$11.48 | \$11.32 | \$11.68 | \$11.36 | \$11.68 | \$11.94 | \$12.06 | \$11.85 | \$11.98 | \$11.85 | \$11.67 |

Benchmark: March 1988

Prepared in cooperation with the Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor.

1/2 Data does not include eating and drinking establishments.

AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS SERIES: Averages are based on data for full- and part-time production workers (manufacturing) and nonsupervisory workers (nonmanufacturing) and are for gross earnings and hours paid, including overtime pay and hours.

Source: Alaska Department of Labor, Research & Analysis

Table 20

## Annual Average Labor Force By Region and Census Area 1986-1988

|                              | Labor Force |         |         | Unemployment |        |        | Rate |      |      | Employment |         |         |
|------------------------------|-------------|---------|---------|--------------|--------|--------|------|------|------|------------|---------|---------|
|                              | 1986        | 1987    | 1988    | 1986         | 1987   | 1988   | 1986 | 1987 | 1988 | 1986       | 1987    | 1988    |
| Alaska Statewide             | 257,000     | 248,000 | 242,000 | 28,000       | 27,000 | 23,000 | 10.9 | 10.9 | 9.5  | 229,000    | 221,000 | 219,000 |
| Anch.-MatSu Region           | 137,747     | 130,922 | 125,838 | 13,116       | 12,708 | 10,799 | 9.5  | 9.7  | 8.6  | 124,631    | 118,214 | 115,039 |
| Anchorage Borough            | 121,502     | 115,458 | 111,487 | 10,150       | 9,833  | 8,449  | 8.4  | 8.5  | 7.6  | 111,352    | 105,625 | 103,038 |
| MatSu Borough                | 16,245      | 15,464  | 14,350  | 2,966        | 2,875  | 2,350  | 18.3 | 18.6 | 16.4 | 13,279     | 12,589  | 12,000  |
| Gulf Coast Region            | 27,616      | 26,439  | 26,193  | 3,958        | 3,668  | 3,174  | 14.3 | 13.9 | 12.1 | 23,658     | 22,771  | 23,019  |
| Kenai Peninsula Borough      | 17,814      | 16,845  | 16,556  | 3,038        | 2,847  | 2,405  | 17.1 | 16.9 | 14.5 | 14,776     | 13,998  | 14,151  |
| Kodiak Island Borough        | 5,914       | 5,609   | 5,650   | 467          | 359    | 343    | 7.9  | 6.4  | 6.1  | 5,447      | 5,250   | 5,307   |
| Valdez-Cordova               | 3,887       | 3,986   | 3,988   | 452          | 463    | 426    | 11.6 | 11.6 | 10.7 | 3,435      | 3,523   | 3,562   |
| Interior Region              | 38,449      | 37,241  | 35,640  | 5,585        | 5,442  | 4,573  | 14.5 | 14.6 | 12.8 | 32,864     | 31,799  | 31,067  |
| Fairbanks North Star Borough | 33,123      | 32,022  | 30,652  | 4,728        | 4,484  | 3,748  | 14.3 | 14.0 | 12.2 | 28,395     | 27,538  | 26,904  |
| Southeast Fairbanks          | 2,262       | 2,141   | 2,056   | 345          | 349    | 306    | 15.3 | 16.3 | 14.9 | 1,917      | 1,792   | 1,750   |
| Yukon-Koyukuk                | 3,064       | 3,079   | 2,931   | 512          | 610    | 519    | 16.7 | 19.8 | 17.7 | 2,552      | 2,469   | 2,412   |
| Northern Region              | 8,331       | 8,128   | 8,061   | 948          | 898    | 787    | 11.4 | 11.0 | 9.8  | 7,383      | 7,230   | 7,274   |
| Nome                         | 3,245       | 3,093   | 3,064   | 436          | 397    | 352    | 13.4 | 12.8 | 11.5 | 2,809      | 2,696   | 2,712   |
| North Slope Borough          | 2,891       | 2,861   | 2,865   | 173          | 163    | 151    | 6.0  | 5.7  | 5.3  | 2,718      | 2,698   | 2,714   |
| Northwest Arctic Borough     | 2,194       | 2,176   | 2,133   | 338          | 339    | 285    | 15.4 | 15.6 | 13.4 | 1,856      | 1,837   | 1,848   |
| Southeast Region             | 33,623      | 33,794  | 34,245  | 3,443        | 3,266  | 2,769  | 10.2 | 9.7  | 8.1  | 30,180     | 30,528  | 31,476  |
| Haines Borough               | 881         | 863     | 862     | 120          | 115    | 91     | 13.6 | 13.3 | 10.6 | 761        | 748     | 771     |
| Juneau Borough               | 14,716      | 15,017  | 15,273  | 1,260        | 1,068  | 890    | 8.6  | 7.1  | 5.8  | 13,456     | 13,949  | 14,383  |
| Ketchikan Gateway Borough    | 6,679       | 6,225   | 6,311   | 715          | 635    | 547    | 10.7 | 10.2 | 8.7  | 5,964      | 5,590   | 5,764   |
| Pr. of Wales-Outer Ketchikan | 2,531       | 2,652   | 2,693   | 368          | 393    | 363    | 14.5 | 14.8 | 13.5 | 2,163      | 2,259   | 2,330   |
| Sitka Borough                | 3,963       | 3,987   | 4,042   | 344          | 338    | 279    | 8.7  | 8.5  | 6.9  | 3,619      | 3,649   | 3,763   |
| Skagway-Yakutat-Angoon       | 1,605       | 1,640   | 1,675   | 269          | 286    | 279    | 16.8 | 17.4 | 16.7 | 1,336      | 1,354   | 1,396   |
| Wrangell-Petersburg          | 3,248       | 3,410   | 3,390   | 367          | 432    | 319    | 11.3 | 12.7 | 9.4  | 2,881      | 2,978   | 3,071   |
| Southwest Region             | 11,235      | 11,476  | 12,023  | 951          | 1,018  | 898    | 8.5  | 8.9  | 7.5  | 10,284     | 10,458  | 11,125  |
| Aleutian Islands             | 3,067       | 3,109   | 3,295   | 106          | 111    | 106    | 3.5  | 3.6  | 3.2  | 2,961      | 2,998   | 3,189   |
| Bethel                       | 4,401       | 4,407   | 4,584   | 456          | 471    | 397    | 10.4 | 10.7 | 8.7  | 3,945      | 3,936   | 4,187   |
| Bristol Bay Borough          | 392         | 433     | 457     | 35           | 45     | 44     | 8.9  | 10.4 | 9.6  | 357        | 388     | 413     |
| Dillingham                   | 1,999       | 2,051   | 2,128   | 161          | 182    | 139    | 8.1  | 8.9  | 6.5  | 1,838      | 1,869   | 1,989   |
| Wade Hampton                 | 1,377       | 1,476   | 1,561   | 194          | 209    | 213    | 14.1 | 14.2 | 13.6 | 1,183      | 1,267   | 1,348   |

P/ = Preliminary

R/ = Revised

Benchmark 1988

## Notes:

- Federal guidelines require the use of unrounded labor force data, adjusted to be consistent with the Current Population Survey in formulas used to allocate federal funds.
- Comparisons between different time periods are not as meaningful as other time series published by the Alaska Department of Labor because Alaska's Current Population Survey sample size is inadequate to accurately indicate monthly changes in level. Sampling errors are random in nature, meaning that the unemployment rates in any given month are as likely to be high as frequently as they are low.
- The official definitions of unemployment currently in place exclude anyone who has made no attempt to find work in the four-week period up to and including the week that includes the 12th of each month. Most Alaska economists believe that Alaska's rural localities have proportionately more of these discouraged workers.

Source: Alaska Department of Labor, Research &amp; Analysis

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## Newly Released DOL Publications

Two annual publications published by the Alaska Department of Labor, *Alaska Career Guide 1989* and *Alaska Wage Rates 1988*, were made available to the public during the month of March.

*Alaska Career Guide 1989* is a 68-page tabloid now being distributed statewide to all high school and junior high school students. In its second year of publication, *Career Guide* is expected to reach many thousands of young Alaskans in the process of selecting a career. With a press run of 50,000, *Career Guide* "is full of information about Alaska job prospects through the end of this century," says DOL Commissioner Jim Sampson about the two-color publication. The tabloid describes over 250 different occupations in an easy-to-read format and contains

several articles written by educators and economists. In addition to schools, it is also being distributed to all Alaska State Job Service offices, many medical offices, and Alaska Vocational Rehabilitation offices.

*Alaska Wage Rates 1988* is a 71-page document in its 13th year of publication. Included in the data-filled document is current wage information on a variety of occupations. The information is often used by employers, job counselors and others who have a general interest in Alaska wages.

Copies of either of these publications are available through the Juneau-based office of the DOL's Research & Analysis Section. *Alaska Career Guide 1989* is \$2; *Alaska Wage Rates 1988* is free.



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